FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 056 *21 March 1984*

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Central Bank Governors Begin 2-Day Meeting A 1

ARGENTINA

Caputo Worried About C.A., 'Invasion Imminent' B 1
Foreign Minister To Visit United States 7 April B 1
SIDE Reportedly Following Peron in Madrid B 2
Peron To Return, Lead Justicialist Party B 2
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 20 Mar]
No Changes Foreseen in Labor Ministry After Vote B 3
CGT Issues Call for Repeal of Union Law B 4
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 20 Mar]
Air Force To Support Military Restructuring B 4
Grinspun Reveals Creation of 3-Sector Committees B 5
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 18 Mar]
Former CGT Leader Ongaro Returns From Exile B 6
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 18 Mar]
Grinspun Comments on Debt Talks, Inflation B 6
[LA NACION 18 Mar]
Cattlemen Critical of Meat Ban, Oppose Quotas B 8
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 15 Mar]
Mexico To Sign Naval Transport Agreement B 8
Foreign Official, Parliamentarians Arrive B 9
Canadian Under Secretary B 9
Israeli Legislators B 9
French Parliamentarians B 9
Alfonsin Receives Former Israeli President B 10
TELAM President's Resignation Announced B 10
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 16 Mar]
Over 7,000 Homeless in Northwest Floods B 10
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 19 Mar]

BOLIVIA

Labor Minister Grebe Announces New Measures C 1
Briefs: Finnish Ambassador Presents Credentials; CAF Grants $6-Million Loan; COB Invited to Nicaraguan Meeting C 1

BRAZIL

Chaves Meets Bush, Criticizes Debt Talks D 1
General Denies Arms Sales to Iran Through Libya D 1
[O GLOBO 16 Mar]
Figueiredo Praises Energy Independence Program D 2
[LATIN AMERICAN DAILY POST 16 Mar]
Navy Minister Maximiano Submits Resignation D 2
New Minister Named D 3
Navy Minister Announces Exocet Missile Purchase D 3

Also Gabriel Missiles [Jerusalem] D 3
Air-To-Air 'Piranha' Missile Reportedly Ready D 3
[JORNAL DO BRASIL 18 Mar]
Special Metal for Tank Armor Developed D 4
[JORNAL DO BRASIL 18 Mar]
Finance Minister Travels to Japan, PRC D 4
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 18 Mar]
Governor Leonel Brizola Hospitalized With Stones D 5

CHILE

Socialist Leader Urges Unity, Calls Rally E 1
Del Valle Replies to Austria's Lanc on Seguel E 1
Del Valle on Rights, Mediation, Safe-Conduct E 1
Adm Merino Denies Conflict With Defense Minister E 2
Government Considers Internal Situation 'Quiet' E 2
Ex-Intelligence Director Escapes Dynamite Attack E 2
'Terrorists' Hit Newspaper Distribution Office E 2
AD Leader Valdes Visits Punta Arenas Prisoners E 3
Unions Disagree on Communist Party Participation E 4
Communist Party Declaration Calls for Unity E 4
[Prague RUDE PRAVO 16 Mar]
UK Asks Expulsion of Alleged War Criminal Rauff E 5
Del Valle Comments on Request E 5

COLOMBIA

Matamoros on Guerrilla Links With Drug Traffic F 1
Florencia Clashes, Rebel Ambushes Reported [EL TIEMPO 19 Mar] F 1
Army Plans Offensive F 2
M-19 Communique Announces Operations To Resume [EL SIGLO 17 Mar] F 2
Disowns, Chooses Leaders [EL SIGLO 17 Mar] F 2
FARC Executes Three Indian 'Informants' F 3
EPL Kills Policeman, Burns Ballot Boxes [EL TIEMPO 14 Mar] F 3

ECUADOR

Cuban Government Resumes Ambassadorial Relations G 1
Military Dissolves Esmeraldas Strike Committee G 1

PARAGUAY

Report of Operation on Stroessner Denied H 1
Foreign Minister Returns From United States H 1
[ABC COLOR 17 Mar]
Interior Ministry Warns Political Parties H 1
Authorities Detain ABC COLOR Director Zuccolillo H 2
ABC COLOR Editorial Critical [17 Mar] H 3
Possible Reason Given H 3
Detained for Disrespect [PATRIA 18 Mar] H 4
Further Explanation Given [ABC COLOR 18 Mar] H 4
L.A. Press Leader Critical [BUENOS AIRES HERALD 18 Mar] H 5
Opposition Parties Critical [ABC COLOR 19 Mar] H 5
Interior Minister Comments [ABC COLOR 20 Mar] H 6
Briefs: Ambassador to U.S. Accredited; New Peruvian Ambassador H 6

PERU

Constitutional Guarantees Suspended 3 Days J 1
Percovich, Senator on Rodriquez Resignation J 1

New Economy, Energy Ministers Appointed J 2
Ministers Sworn In J 2
CORPAC Manager Says All Airports Operational J 2
Lima Mayor Barrantes Criticizes 22 March Strike J 3
Freight Carriers Not To Join J 3
Dock Workers Will Not Join J 3

URUGUAY

Colorados, Blancos Reject Communist Proposals K 1
Carreras Resigns From Council of State K 2
Police Break Up Meeting of Blanco Party K 2
Seregni's Release Becomes Political Event K 2
Speaks to Supporters [Buenos Aires] K 2
Demonstrators Celebrate Release K 3
Receives Colorado Leaders K 4

MEXICO

Sepulveda Discusses Contadora, C.A. Problems M 1
[Paris LE MONDE 16 Mar]
Daniel Ortega Arrives for Talks on C.A. Issues M 2
Demands U.S. C.A. Withdrawal M 2
UN Secretary General To Arrive 21 March M 3
Argentine Ambassador Discusses Bilateral Ties M 4
Cooperation Agreements Signed With Belize M 4
Fisheries Secretary Departs for Panama M 5
IMCE Director Touring Middle East Countries M 5
Pemex Retains Crude Oil Prices, Export Limits M 5
Announces New Center M 6
Briefs: PRI Secretary General Named M 6

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Gutierrez Discusses Pace of Contadora Process P 1
[LA REPUBLICA 5 Mar]

EL SALVADOR

D'Aubuisson Hits Foreign Press for War Coverage P 1
[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 19 Mar]
Military Activity: Sabotage, Clashes Reported P 1
Power Loss Follows Explosion P 1
FMLN: Army Offensive Failed [Venceremos] P 2
Rebels Clash With Cavalry [Venceremos] P 2
FMLN Clashes with Belloso [Venceremos] P 2

GUATEMALA

Army Gives 'Conditional Yes' on 'Grenadier I' P 3

HONDURAS

Protest to Nicaragua Over Moving Border Markers P 4
National Party Members Endorse Rift Declaration P 4

NICARAGUA

Soviet Oil Tanker Hits Mine in Puerto Sandino P 4
Sailors Reportedly Injured P 5
Torres Cites U.S. Troops, Ships as War Threat P 5
Ortega, D'Escoto Depart for Mexican Visit P 5

Ortega Speaks at Airport P 6
Party Officials Interviewed on Electoral Law P 6
Parties' Assembly Appoints Delegates to CNPP [BARRICADA 15 Mar] P 8
Humberto Ortega Notes Attack by 'Piranha' Boats P 8
Sandinist, Contra Forces Clash in North P 9
FDN Claims Casualties P 9
27 Contras Said Killed P 9

CUBA

Angolan Delegation Completes Visit, Departs Q 1
Castro Hosts Farewell Banquet Q 1
Cooperation Agreement Signed Q 1
Dos Santos Departs Q 1
Comparison of Cuba-Angola Joint Declaration Q 2
Firm Position in Statement With Angola Praised Q 2
GRANMA Views Angola-S. Africa Withdrawal Talks [4 Mar] Q 3
Malmierca, Delegation on Official Visit to Ghana [cross-reference] Q 4
Mozambique Delegation Arrives for Official Talks Q 4
Carlos Zamora Accredited Ambassador to Ecuador Q 4
Soto Decorates Soviet Minister Boris Bakin Q 4
Rebels, Leaders Cited on Salvadoran Elections Q 4
No Solution to Conflict Q 4
Military Actions To Increase Q 5
Salvadoran Rebels, Army Clash in New Offensive Q 5
U.S. Said Sending Chemical Weapons to El Salvador Q 6
Guatemalan Officer Voices Interest in Maneuvers Q 6
2d Phase Begins in Joint U.S.-Honduran Exercise Q 6
Reveals Expanded U.S. 'Occupation' Q 7
Honduran Institute Raps U.S. Actions in C.A. Q 7
Nicaragua's Ortega Cited on 'U.S. Intervention' Q 7
Nicaraguan Leader To Visit Mexico for Talks Q 8
Nicaraguan Planning Minister Departs for Moscow Q 8
Nicaragua Passes New Law on Party Equality Q 9
Nicaraguan Government Delivers Land Titles Q 9
Nicaraguan Army Kills 27 Counterrevolutionaries Q 9
Dynamite Attack, National Protest Noted in Chile Q 10
Front Claims Responsibility for Blasts in Chile Q 10
Colombian M-19 Column Pursued After Attack Q 10
Oil Strike in Ecuador Partly Resolved Q 11
Imminent Cabinet Changes Rumored in Peru Q 11
Economy Minister Resigns Q 11
Peruvian Deputies Injured During Demonstration Q 12
Peruvian Police Accused of Torturing Prisoners Q 12
Uruguay Faction on Elections, Civil Liberties Q 12
Uruguayan Communists Cited on Seregni's Release Q 13
Chile-Nicaragua Solidarity Ceremony in Venezuela Q 13
Argentina's Campero Remarks in Mexico Noted Q 13
Panama Says U.S. Building Civic Action Works Q 13
Demonstrations Continue in Dominican Republic Q 14
Barbados' Tull Favors Relations With Havana Q 14
Agree, U.S. Journalist Cited on Grenada Events Q 14
Guyana Objects to IMF's Conditions for Loans Q 15

CARIBBEAN

BARBADOS

Adams Announces Defense Expenditure Plans S 1
Capital Expenditure Cut S 1

GRENADA

Governor Signs Ordinance on General Elections S 1

JAMAICA

Seabed Authority, LOS Tribunal Open Session S 2

ST LUCIA

EEC Representative Arrives on Official Visit S 3

GUYANA

Union Workers Vote To End Sugar Strike T 1
Workers Return To Work T 1

CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS BEGIN 2-DAY MEETING

FL192344 Bridgetown CANA in English 2032 GMT 19 Mar 84

[By Rudi Williams]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, March 19 (CANA) -- Central bank governors of the Americas began a two-day meeting here to compare notes on economic problems facing Latin America and the Caribbean.

Trinidad and Tobago Central Bank Governor Victor Bruce said the previous 20 meetings of the group had seen "real advances" in tackling inflation and the severe debt burden.

Latin America's indebtedness is currently put at about 230 billion U.S. dollars.

"Through the numerous discussions and exchange of ideas, such as we have on these occasions, many shortcomings in terms of the lack of national statistical information or even the types of economic indicators have been identified," Bruce said. He noted that research projects had been undertaken to fill the statistical gaps and "... the reservoir of statistical information necessary to inform policy has been progressively increased and the quality up-graded."

The 101 listed delegates from 29 countries including representatives of regional and international financial institutions will talk "freely and frankly ... in an informal atmosphere," conference officials stated.

The meeting of all countries in North and South America and the Caribbean Basin will be followed on Wednesday and Thursday by a conference of Central Bank governors of Latin America and Spain.

Conference officials explained that the Central Bank governors and officials will use the meeting to "exchange views and ideas in an informal atmosphere."

"They discuss and hope to learn from one another," officials stated, noting that no decisions are expected to be taken. No details of the agenda have been released.

Commonwealth Caribbean countries listed as attending are Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Guyana, Barbados, and Belize, and the East Caribbean Central Bank of the seven nation Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States.

CAPUTO WORRIED ABOUT C.A., 'INVASION IMMINENT'

PY202245 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1549 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Mar (TELAM) -- Today Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said that he is very worried about the current Central American situation and disclosed that the Argentine representatives in the area have been requested to supply a full report on the situation.

Caputo, during statements to the program "Magdalena" and the news broadcast by Radio Continental, stated that press reports point out that Honduras has become a U.S. base and noted that very little importance has been granted to this fact in any other Latin American or even European capital. The minister, who commented that the region [Central America] is experiencing a permanent situation of crisis with military alternatives, said that "an invasion seems imminent and that the crisis it is enduring is really serious."

Regarding journalist Jesus Iglesias Rouco's criticism of the Argentine foreign policy, Caputo said that the journalist has a very good imagination and added that instead of speculating he would like Rouco to analyze the executive branch's actions in this field. He added that "I think that during these three months of work we have carried out a package of actions and that the evaluation of the foreign policy should be based on these actions, exclusively, and not on suppositions, speculations, and hypotheses."

Caputo asserted that, on one hand, on the negotiations over the Beagle dispute and the Malvinas we have strictly abided by what was established in our platform, and from the point of view of our overall policy, we have the objective of strengthening Argentina's autonomy.

The minister stated that "this means that Argentina must have many friends and not only one." He added that it is obvious that a political monopoly is to the detriment of a country's capacity of being independent. "Now then, if this bothers any journalist, if he feels that Argentina should maintain links only with one country, I think that we should sit down and discuss at length what each of us understands by political independence."

Caputo ended by recalling that he clearly stated that Argentina's main political partners are in Latin America in the first place and then in North America and Europe. In the three cases, I am referring to the Western countries and we will continue to insist on this line.

FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT UNITED STATES 7 APRIL

PY201200 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dante Caputo will travel to the United States on 7 April at the invitation of the Council for Foreign Relations. The announcement was made by National Press Director Albino Gomez. During his stay in New York and Washington, Minister Caputo will give several lectures, including one at the American Society and another at the National Press Club. He will return to Buenos Aires on 13 April.

SIDE REPORTEDLY FOLLOWING PERON IN MADRID

PY202200 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1801 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] San Miguel de Tucuman, 19 Mar (NA) -- The local afternoon newspaper LA TARDE today stated that the Secretariat for State Intelligence [SIDE] "has ordered that Isabel Peron be continuously followed" and that all persons who visit her residence in Madrid "be observed from a distance."

Moreover, the newspaper adds that SIDE intends to obtain "information from the provinces ruled by Peronism" through a private surveying enterprise which would be used as a cover. LA TARDE does not identify the presumed enterprise, but states that "it will offer its services to Peronist provincial governments." It adds that "to make the offer more serious, it will sign a contract beforehand with any province ruled by the Radical Civic Union [UCR]. In this manner the SIDE-surveyors agents will be able to freely tour all provinces and governments which would even pay for their services."

LA TRADE made these revelations in its political column "It Is Said in Buenos Aires," and added that it has a report on these SIDE plans. It states that SIDE has "ordered that former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron be continuously followed in Madrid." It adds that "the following involves the verification of all places visited by Mrs Peron and the observation from a distance of all persons who visit her residence." LA TRADE reports that "the following is continuous and that for this reason the SIDE-3 delegation personnel have been increased in Madrid. [quotation marks as received]

Coincident with reports published in the federal capital by the magazine PRIMERA PLANA, the LA TRADE political column states that the government intends to fill the vacancies at SIDE with young militants of the UCR university "Purple Stripe" [Franja Morada] faction. This report was denied by the UCR leadership which added that a suit will be filed against those responsible for that report.

[Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish at 2105 GMT on 19 March, citing an anonymous note distributed to newspapers, reported that the Secretariat for State Intelligence (SIDE) may have ordered "a constant surveillance" on Isabel Peron, and the "observation from a distance" of all persons who visit her residence in Madrid. Quoting the same note distributed in Buenos Aires, NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS said that SIDE "has already stepped up the tapping of phones to the point that it has exceeded its capacity to do this job," adding that "all important labor leaders, Peronist politicians, and politicians of other parties, such as Arturo Frondizi and Alvaro Alsogaray, who are suspected of trying to destabilize, have their phones tapped."]

PERON TO RETURN, LEAD JUSTICIALIST PARTY

PY202235 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 Mar 84 p 7

[Text] (NA) -- Former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron's decision to return to Argentina to assert her leadership of the Justicialist Party is "irrevocable" and she will do so at the date "most convenient for the Republic and the Peronist movement," according to a statement released yesterday by the ex-president's liaison committee. The statement, signed by orthodox Peronist leaders Senator Humberto Martiarena and Pedro Arrighi, also denounced "manoeuvres and ill-intentioned remarks made recently by the enemies of Peronism."

Meanwhile, ex-nationalist leader Guillermo Patricio Kelly told the press he had prayed with Mrs Peron for 40 minutes at the latter's self-imposed exile in Madrid, and Arrighi chose to "congratulate" him for having "prayed together" with the former president, "which is a good sign for all. Kelly is a very violent man, and praying with Mrs Peron may bring peace to his soul." In a more serious vein, Arrighi dismissed the reported prayer session as "something which was probably set up by Kelly," and denied any such meeting between Kelly and the ex-president could have had "political connotations."

Mrs Peron was also in the limelight on a separate issue, when an anonymous letter delivered to various Buenos Aires media, as well as a report published yesterday by the Tucuman daily LA TARDE, charged the State Information Secretariat (SIDE) had ordered the ex-president followed, and that records be kept of all her visitors in Madrid. The reports also said SIDE planned to gather information in provinces governed by Peronists using a polling firm as a front.

The letter distribued in the capital charged SIDE had implemented an extensive phone-tapping system which affected "all important union leaders, Peronist politicians, and those of other parties suspected of destabilizing the government, including Arturo Frondizi and Alvaro Alsogaray."

NO CHANGES FORESEEN IN LABOR MINISTRY AFTER VOTE

PY152210 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli today discarded the possibility of any changes in the Labor Ministry as the result of the Senate's rejection of the union reorganization bill. He said that Labor Minister Antonio Mucci has been confirmed in his position.

Troccoli made these remarks in Cordoba where he is accompanying President Alfonsin who is visiting this province. Troccoli pointed out that the government did its best to harmonize its points of view with those of the Justicialist Party. He added that efforts were made to make the original proposal more flexible and that even the proposals made by the provincial blocs were included in the bill during the Senate's debates. He said that unfortunately this did not help; therefore the law enacted during the military regime will have to be used. In answer to a question, Troccoli said that under no circumstance will there be any changes in the Labor Ministry and that Ministry Mucci has been confirmed.

Labor Minister Antonio Mucci said that an evaluation will have to be made on the debates of the union reorganization bill rejected by the Senate, and that studies will be made on what steps to take next. Asked about his eventual resignation, Mucci labeled the question as inappropriate, adding that the bill's rejection was a setback which is part of the democratic game, and that in voting one either wins or loses. He added that if every time a government bill is voted down it causes a cabinet crisis, there would not be a government which could finish its term with the men it chose to carry out a program.

CGT ISSUES CALL FOR REPEAL OF UNION LAW

PY202240 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 Mar 84 p 7

[Text] (DYN-NA) -- The CGT trade union grouping yesterday released a statement calling on the government to "urgently submit to Congress a bill calling for the repeal of Law 22105" in reference to the labour legislation of the previous military regime. The repeal of the 1979 law would effectively make Law 20615, which was introduced in 1974 by the last Peronist government, the legislation governing union matters. According to the CGT statement, the government should follow the repeal with a call for union elections within four months on the basis of the charter of each trade union.

The CGT also warned it would reject any government effort to reverse the Senate's verdict against the Radical union bill last week. Union sources also revealed the CGT confirmed plans to stage protests in April if socio-economic problems were not resolved, and could order its member unions to unilaterally hold elections on the basis of present charters.

The Metalworkers Union (UOM) could be the first of such unions, it was reported, in keeping with its traditional leading role in the Argentine labour movement. The sources thought UOM elections could be called this week in order to catch the government off guard when it was still recovering from the Senate defeat of its union bill. UOM leaders could allegedly justify this move by stressing the importance of demonstrating their "representativeness," which has been questioned by government supporters. The government would then either have to accept the decision or be placed in the position of opposing union elections, the sources said. Observers also think elections could serve the purpose of removing Justicialist Party Vicepresident Lorenzo Miguel from the helm of OUM after he was discredited by the Peronist defeat in the last elections. The CGT leaders also agreed yesterday to reject an expected invitation from Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun and to hold out for an interview with President Raul Alfonsin. Grinspun yesterday extended an invitation to the 20 Committee union grouping although observers doubted it would be accepted.

Contacts with the church and other social sectors were also discussed as part of the "national front" mentioned in the CGT response to Alfonsin's reply to the CGT wage demands last Friday. Approaches to the Multiparty grouping were also studied.

The Argentine Union Assembly (AGA) yesterday proposed that a committee consisting of the government, the CGT, and the "joint liaison board" of opposition union groupings should revise Law 22105 so union could be returned to democracy as soon as possible. Congressmen could also sit on the committee, they suggested.

AIR FORCE TO SUPPORT MILITARY RESTRUCTURING

PY191828 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1449 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Rio Gallegos, 19 Mar (TELAM) -- Major General Guillermo Teodoro Waldner, chief of staff of the Air Force, today confirmed before the constitutional authorities here what the Air Force has promised to do as friends and professionals of the armed services: To give all our loyal and unselfish support to the Joint Staff for the restructuring of the Armed Forces without depriving any of the services of their identity.

He said this in a speech delivered during the ceremony creating the 10th Air Brigade with headquarters in this city. The following is the text of his speech:

"The Rio Gallegos military aeronautics unit was created in 1952, the first measure showing that the Argentine Air Force was aware of the urgent strategic need of the nation to possess, in the far south of our territory, a base of operations with the indispensable ground support to permit planes to take off under any circumstances required by the need to defend the integrity of our country."

"This old Rio Gallegos military air base gradually completed its flight support services until achieving what we have come here today to celebrate: the creation of the 10th Air Brigade, the spearpoint [words indistinct] airspace of the nation and a basic component of the national defense system, closely structured together with the other two services, the Argentine Army and Navy."

"May the Army and Navy chiefs of staff permit me to confirm before the constitutional authorities what we have promised to do as friends and professionals of each armed service: To give your loyal and unselfish support to the Joint Staff for the restructuring of the Armed Forces without depriving any of them of their identity as a specific force."

"The 10th Air Brigade today starts its activities with all its services ready for joint action for the good of the country, and with its Mirage planes ready for defense.

"The Brigade is in the hands of the Argentine nation, its government, and its people, and most particularly in the hands of the magnificent population of Rio Gallegos to whom it is offered so they can call it their own. The Brigade is a force put at the service of the nation and respectful of the will of the citizens.

"I ask God, our Lord, to protect its men and planes and to permit this military unit to become a school for the training of our troops and a deterrent element ensuring peace, and I ask those who lead it for wisdom in decisions and courage in using it."

GRINSPUN REVEALS CREATION OF 3-SECTOR COMMITTEES

PY191248 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 Mar 84 p 13

[Text] (NA) -- Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun announced, in talks held yesterday with "union work committee" leaders, the creation of tripartite committees, made up of business, worker, and government representatives, which will study the "concrete problems" of Argentine industry. The work committee leaders, for their part, demanded during the three-hour talks that the government place a moratorium on the repayment of the foreign debt.

Speaking to reporters after the meet, Grinspun also said that a comparison of him to Jose Martinez de Hoz, made last Friday by the unified General Confederation of Labour (CGT), was an "uncalled-for insult."

Work committee member Jose Genaro Baez reported after meeting with Grinspun that the minister had promised to study the possibility of using "tougher control mechanisms" on the production, distribution, and marketing of vital consumer goods. Both sides agreed to meet every two weeks to discuss the economic situation, and it was announced that Commerce Secretary Ricardo Campero would meet with committee leaders next week.

Grinspun was also notified of alleged illegal actions by the firm Cargill, which the unionists said had arbitrarily raised chicken prices during the meat ban, and by Mar del Plata fishermen who reportedly have been returning half of their catch to the sea in order to jack up fish prices.

The union work committee is made up of leaders from the National Workers' Gathering, the National Union Plenary, the Argentine Union Association, and the National Union Renewal Movement. The last group did not send members to yesterday's meet, for reasons as of yet unknown.

Grinspun was also to meet with "Committee of 20" union leaders yesterday afternoon, but for unexplained reasons the meeting was called off, with no new date known.

FORMER CGT LEADER ONGARO RETURNS FROM EXILE

PY191245 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 Mar 84 p 13

[Text] (NA) -- The former secretary-general of the Argentines' General Confederation of Labour (CGTA), Raimundo Ongaro, yesterday returned to Argentina after an almost ten-year exile abroad calling on all sectors to form a "national liberation front" capable of ending "an immoral and wicked system which showed no mercy even towards children and senior citizens." Ongaro, who helped create the CGTA in 1968 and was banished from the country in 1975 by the Peron government, added that the majority of Argentines now demand that "the national liberation project be allowed to evolve peacefully, because the goal is not to kill people but rather a power structure."

The Printers' Union leader was received at Ezeiza Airport by over 1,000 supporters, including Radical roving Ambassador Hipolito Solari Yrigoyen, who at one time served as Ongaro's lawyer, and Peronist National Deputy Juan Barbaro.

At an airport press conference in which Ongaro spoke uninterrupted for 30 minutes, thus limiting reporter's questions, the union leader stated "I will remain loyal to Peronism, into which I was born, but this must be said: The nation is now under a democratic government led by (President Raul) Alfonsin, to whom I would like to say that in me he has another Argentine to help guarantee democracy." Ongaro added that he wished to meet with the president in order to express that "this time the Argentine people won't pay for the crisis." After calling for "national liberation," Ongaro asked rhetorically: "How come that now that there is no room for charismatic leaders -- like Peron was -- but only for (government) teams, single party replies are still given to the national crisis."

Ongaro said he would continue within the Printers' Union but avoided answering to whether he would join one of the major union groupings. After leaving the airport, Ongaro and close friends headed for the Printers' Union headquarters where suspiciously locked doors kept them from meeting to discuss national issues.

GRINSPUN COMMENTS ON DEBT TALKS, INFLATION

PY201925 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 18 Mar 84 section 3, p 1

[Interview with Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun on his first 100 days in government, at the Finance Ministry in Buenos Aires -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified reporter] What is the Argentine position on the foreign debt?

[Grinspun] I believe it is clear. We will not adopt any economic measure that could jeopardize the democratic process. We will not impose measures that could cause social disturbance. We believe that this position will still make it possible to pay the foreign debt. We are firmly convinced that without growth, neither Argentina nor any other country will be able to pay its foreign debt. Therefore, we will not accept recessionary programs. We have said this, and I believe it is understood.

[Reporter] How are the foreign debt negotiations going?

[Grinspun] The negotiations are normal, and have been affected only by contingencies that are inherent in any negotiation. I believe that whenever we have a good budget and a normalized foreign sector, things will change. I am not worried by reports predicting catastrophe. The organizations putting out such reports are made up of professional alarmists. Were these forecasts ever right in the past? We will have to see this.

[Reporter] How would you assess these first 100 days?

[Grinspun] There are positive and negative aspects. The positive aspects can be easily noted. Economic activity and job offers have increased. This can be seen in the newspaper ads.

[Reporter] And the negative aspects?

[Grinspun] They have to do with the level of prices.

[Reporter] What worries you more: Inflation or foreign debt?

[Grinspun] I would say that I worry more about inflation at this time, because there are some factors of inflation that are still difficult to control. As for the foreign debt, I repeat that I think the negotiations are on the right track.

[Reporter] It is being constantly said that the government does not have an economic program...

[Grinspun] Yes, and we insist that we do have one. Look, when we have a budget and a monetary program, the argument will shift to whether they are good or bad.

[Reporter] Prices have increased more than the exchange rate in recent months. Could they get out of pace? And in that case, will the peso be devalued?

[Grinspun] It does not seem that the effective exchange rate is deteriorating. We are exporting very well, including industrial products. Nevertheless, we will not allow the effective exchange rate to deteriorate, falling below the cost curve. We can correct this as we did with wheat by lowering withholdings.

[Reporter] Public utilities rates have been adjusted by a percentage which is lower than the percentages by which other prices and salaries have been adjusted. Will this policy be changed?

[Grinspun] Look, the profitability of public utility enterprises has increased, and so there is a margin to maintain that policy.

[Reporter] Going back to the price question, aren't you afraid of hyperinflation?

[Grinspun] We are making every effort to bring the socioeconomic variables back under control. I do not believe there is risk of hyperinflation at this time.

[Reporter] And what if hyperinflation appears?

[Grinspun] There are measures, just like there are measures for the parallel exchange rate. Thanks to the effort by the Finance Secretariat to increase revenues and reduce expenditures, I believe that the danger of hyperinflation has been staved off. Incidentally, 19 March is the deadline for those who have not yet straightened out their fiscal situation. These figures will be an important point from which to begin.

[Reporter] What will the budget that is being prepared be like?

[Grinspun] It will be an instrument to fight inflation and to expand the economy. We are going to use the budget as a tool for development and inflation control. We expect to have more revenues and less deficit.

[Reporter] You said that the budget will help to expand the economy. How?

[Grinspun] The real salaries of the public sector will be moderately increased. This will move the economy. The housing plan is also included.

CATTLEMEN CRITICAL OF MEAT BAN, OPPOSE QUOTAS

PY162025 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 15 Mar 84 p 9

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The Confederation of Cattlemen (CONINAGRO) emphasized yesterday that although the recovery of beef cattle stocks is a key issue in the reactivation of the livestock industry, this aim is incompatible with a ban on the sale and consumption of meat, as well as with any quota or maximum price system. CONINAGRO demanded that the government come up with a clear statement to the effect that it will not resort to any of the two latter measures.

The ban on beef slaughter and sale "gives rise to uncertainty and confusion among producers as well as 11 other sectors involved," cattlemen claimed. They nevertheless approved of the government decision to impose a prompt payment for cattle sales, describing the measure as "consistent" with the recovery of cattle stocks.

Meanwhile, yesterday the trade secretariat closed down three butcher shops in the City of Buenos Aires for alleged inobservance of the ban on beef sales. The shops were located on Cervantes 1966, Juan Ambrosetti 383, and Baigorria 4949.

MEXICO TO SIGN NAVAL TRANSPORT AGREEMENT

PY170230 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1443 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 16 Mar (TELAM) -- Pedro Jose Casadio Bianco, under secretary of sea and river transportation, today announced here that Argentina and Mexico have reached an agreement at the technical level on naval freight operations. He added that this agreement will be signed during the meeting that Argentine President Alfonsin and Mexican President De la Madrid will hold in Buenos Aires.

Alejandro Alvarez, the director of national sea activities, who headed the Argentine delegation in the negotiations, noted that the agreement establishes that all freight that is generated by bilateral trade must be divided in equal parts among the merchant fleet of the two countries.

FOREIGN OFFICIAL, PARLIAMENTARIANS ARRIVE

Canadian Under Secretary

PY191235 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1609 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 18 Mar (TELAM) -- Claude Charland, Canadian under secretary for Latin American affairs, arrived today. He said that he is happy to arrive in Buenos Aires at the beginning of a new political era for Argentina, and that he is open to study all trade possibilities. At Ezeiza Airport, Charland stated that his visit is intended to demonstrate the confidence Canadians have in the efforts President Alfonsin and his government are making to face the challenges and difficulties of the coming years.

Israeli Legislators

PY162105 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] A delegation of Israeli lawmakers today arrived in Argentina with the goal of gathering information concerning the disappearance of nearly 400 persons of Jewish origin, and to make contact with their Argentine peers. They were met at Ezeiza Airport by Senator Adolfo Gass and Deputies Federico Storani, Jose Bielicki, Adolfo Stubrin, and Diego Guelar.

One of the visitors said that they have come to gather information and not to make inquiries, and that they are prompted by an eagerness to learn about Argentina's current problems. He added that they have come to trade experiences, starting off with their own. The visitors made it clear that they are interested in establishing ties between the Argentine and the Israeli Congresses with the goal of expanding bilateral relations between the two countries.

[Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish at 1512 GMT on 16 March identifies the Israeli parliamentarians as Uzi Baram, Geula Cohen, and Dov Zeiderman, and reports that Mr Baram indicated that "we bring a list of 400 disappeared persons of Jewish origin whose families have sought our intervention."]

French Parliamentarians

PY172355 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1630 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 17 Mar (NA) -- A delegation of French senators belonging to the French-American studies and friendship group today arrived in Buenos Aires with the objective of holding meetings with government officials and representatives from human rights organizations. The legislators were welcomed at Ezeiza Airport by Argentine Roving Ambassador Hipolito Solari Yrigoyen and French Ambassador Michel Paolini.

The delegation is made up of Jean Francois Pintat, senator from La Gironde, Independent, who heads the group; Roberto Laucournet, Socialist; Roland Du Luart, Independent; Jacques Mossion, of the Central Democratic Union for Progress; Jean Mercier, Leftist Radical; and Auguste Cazalet, representative of the Atlantic Pyrinees. Members of the delegation include advisor Jacques Lelievre and Senate Assistant Director Yvon Gasser.

ALFONSIN RECEIVES FORMER ISRAELI PRESIDENT

PY171925 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0023 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 16 Mar (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin and Yitzhak Navon, former Israeli chief of state and former ambassador to Argentina, who was accompanied by Israeli Ambassador to Argentina Dov Schmorak, held a 1-hour meeting this afternoon.

In a statement to journalists, Navon said that they had discussed the international situation, and the conflicts in the Middle East. He added that Israeli-Argentine bilateral relations were also discussed.

He added that it was very important for me to personally meet the president. From far away, from television, and by reading his statements, I had the impression that I already knew him. He is a great man, a great humanist, and he knows what he is doing.

TELAM PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION ANNOUNCED

PY161737 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 16 Mar 84

[Text] (DYN) -- Hugo Gambini, president of the government news agency TELAM, resigned eight days ago, it was announced yesterday. His successor will be chosen at the next meeting of TELAM's board of directors, which is slated for April 10, and it had been hoped the resignation could be kept secret until then. However the Bahia Blanca daily LA NUEVA PROVINCIA yesterday carried rumours of Gambini's resignation, claiming Gambini, whose sympathies are reputed to lie with the Democratic Socialists, had been eased out for not being a sufficiently active Radical.

OVER 7,000 HOMELESS IN NORTHWEST FLOODS

PY191741 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 Mar 84 p 5

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- More than 7,000 people are currently homeless in a rain belt which stretches from Salta to the northwest of Buenos Aires Province and includes the Provinces of Tucuman, Santiago del Estero, La Rioja, Chaco, La Pampa, and Cordoba.

Tucuman, where more than 100 millimetres of rainfall in the last 48 hours have compelled about 500 families to leave their homes, is perhaps the worst-hit province. Floods have affected about 70 percent of the province's roads.

In Santiago del Estero, where more than 1,200 millimetres of rain have fallen so far this year, the number of evacuees could reach 3,000. In Chaco about 800 people have been forced to abandon their homes while a further 3,000 have been cut off. Salta provincial authorities have reported the evacuation of 500 persons.

LABOR MINISTER GREBE ANNOUNCES NEW MEASURES

PY201538 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Labor Minister Horst Grebe Lopez has disclosed that the government is going to implement monetary stabilization measures by controlling prices, protecting salaries, reducing inflation to reasonable levels, and eliminating subsidies. He said that to implement the new monetary stabilization program it will be necessary to reorganize the Democratic and Popular Unity [UDP] to the way it was originally conceived, a program for which the Bolivian people voted in three consecutive elections.

The labor minister added that measures are being taken to implement the new program to confront the current economic and political crisis affecting the country. Horst Grebe said that the government has prepared the basic guidelines of the monetary stabilization program aimed at satisfying the poor sectors, and that the program should begin with the implementation of several measures related to the government's concern over the workers' demands.

The new monetary stabilization program is primarily aimed at achieving an economic recovery, protecting salaries, and defending the production and profits of state enterprises. He added that the program is being adjusted to the strategic guidelines of the UDP which were proposed to the Bolivian people during the 1980 electoral campaign.

The minister explained that several matters must be brought up to date, and that new things which were not included in the 1980 program should be introduced. He also said that different government experts and members of the political parties which make up the UDP are working on the preparation of a coherent program aimed at achieving strict control over prices to prevent inflation, which is obstructing government economic policies, from worsening.

BRIEFS

FINNISH AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS -- Today Britta Oro Riitta, concurrent ambassador to Peru, presented her credentials to President Hernan Siles Zuazo. [Summary] [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Mar 84 PY]

CAF GRANTS $6-MILLION LOAN -- The Andean Development Corporation [CAF] has approved a loan of $6,716,400 to the Mining Corporation of Bolivia in order to exploit slag deposits to extract tin concentrates. These deposits have been accumulating in the (Quenco) area, near Catavi district, since 1931. [Summary] [La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Mar 84 PY]

COB INVITED TO NICARAGUAN MEETING -- (Leopoldo Tablada), a representative of the Nicaraguan trade union movement, has visited the COB's [Bolivian Labor Federation] headquarters and invited COB leaders to attend a meeting for world peace to be held in Nicaragua 24-27 April. [Excerpt] [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Mar 84 PY]

CHAVES MEETS BUSH, CRITICIZES DEBT TALKS

PY201202 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] In Washington, Vice President Aureliano Chaves has criticized the present negotiating mechanism of the Brazilian foreign debt. He told his U.S. counterpart, Vice President George Bush, that Brazil must seek new negotiating formulas. IMF regulations have led Brazil into a recession that has caused dangerous social unrest.

GENERAL DENIES ARMS SALES TO IRAN THROUGH LIBYA

PY191814 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 Mar 84 p 7

[Excerpts] Brasilia -- General Jose de Alburquerque, head of the Army War Material Department, yesterday dubbed as "idle talk" and a "trial balloon" the information that Brazil is reportedly selling arms to Iran through Libya. This information was disseminated by the ANSA news agency based on a survey conducted by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). This survey places Argentina and Brazil among the 40 countries supplying arms, ammunition, and spare parts to the two parties in the conflict.

ANSA, based on this survey, stated that Brazil was already selling arms to Iraq before the war and that it kept doing so after the war began. Concerning Iran, ANSA stated that Brazil is supplying armored trucks sold through Libya in a triangular operation.

"These triangular operations are not secret since there are no secrets in the international market and furthermore, Libya is not entitled to participate in a triangular operation since we have no agreements with them in this regard," Gen Albuquerque stated. Gen Albuquerque added that should Iran have Brazilian-made war materiel, the Iraqis would have already seized some during the war, something that has not happened thus far.

Arms sales to Iran and South Africa are being "embargoed" by Itamaraty, which questions the validity of an open arms trade policy and a strategic alliance policy. Ricardo Carvalho, Itamaraty's acting spokesman, yesterday said that all Brazilian contracts for the supply of arms to Iraq were closed before the war with Iran broke out 4 years ago. Carvalho stated that Brazil is not selling arms to Iran and recalled what Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro has said on this matter.

Military sources in Sao Paulo, who are close to the war materiel sector, have reported that until early 1983 the Iranian Army used Brazilian-made tanks, rockets, and bombs which were passed on to them by the Libyan Government. There were no transfers, according to the sources, a year ago, since General [as published] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's government drastically cut back on its Brazilian purchases.

The sources remarked that this transfer is not typical of a triangular operation but rather an isolated action by a country indirectly involved in the conflict, something which is to be understood as assistance to a friendly country. These sources stated that there is no Brazilian involvement, especially considering that over past months Iraq has been increasing its arms orders from Brazil. "Brazil and Iraq have very strong ties, ties that are very sound and are likely to get stronger," a spokesman said. Annual Iraqi arms purchases from Brazil total approximately $100 million, while Libyan arms purchases have dropped to a little more than $40 million. Until last year, when Iran's situation in the war was more critical, Libya tried to increase its orders from Brazil, with the goal of tripling them.

The spokesman recalled the visit of an Iranian mission that tried to purchase arms from Brazil and Itamaraty's veto of this operation. However, the spokesmen noted that sales contracts with Libya do not prevent the latter from passing on these arms to any other country. The Brazilian Government is aware of this fact, but it does not get involved in this issue. "We cannot demand from our buyers that they proceed one way or another with our products and we have no involvement whatsoever with their final destination," said a businessman from this sector, adding that for the past year Iran has not received Brazilian-made arms, either donated by Libya or by any other country, even though Libya still is Brazil's second largest arms buyer.

FIGUEIREDO PRAISES ENERGY INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM

PY162055 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICAN DAILY POST in English 16 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Campos (DAILY POST) -- Praising Brazil's ever-increasing independence in the energy sector and calling for the collaboration of the Brazilian people in the process of redemocratization, President Joao Figueiredo Thursday celebrated the fifth anniversary of his government aboard a Petrobras oil production platform 30 miles offshore the coast of Rio de Janeiro state.

Figueiredo, accompanied by most of the nation's cabinet ministers, traveled by helicopter to Enchova I, the most prodigious production platform operated by Petrobras in the oil-rich Campos Basin. Enchova I is pumping an average of 30,000 barrels a day of crude oil. The president chose the oil field background to celebrate his government's anniversary because of the excellent exploration and production performance turned in by Petrobras during his mandate.

Meanwhile, Energy and Mines Minister Cesar Cals announced that Brazil's daily petroleum production should top 500,000 barrels a day by July of this year. As a result of increased national production, the country's oil imports for 1984 should be less than $5 billion, a considerable decrease from last year's $6.8 billion and just over half of 1982's $9.6 billion. This will mean that during Figueiredo's administration, oil production practically has tripled. The Campos Basin today accounts for more than half of all of Brazil's oil production.

Besides the increase in oil production, Cals also pointed out other advances made in the energy sector during the last five years: Brazil's production of alcohol as an alternative fuel today substitutes 100,000 barrels/day of petroleum, coal has taken the place of 40,000 barrels/day of petroleum and natural gas now substitutes 30,000 barrels/day of petroleum.

NAVY MINISTER MAXIMIANO SUBMITS RESIGNATION

PY191742 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1733 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] The navy minister's resignation will be one of the issues discussed by presidential spokesman Carlos Atila during a press conference he will hold this afternoon in Brasilia. The presidential spokesman must explain the reasons that led Navy Minister Maximiano to submit his resignation. Atila must also disclose the name of a possible replacement. Maximiano alluded to personal reasons for his resignation, which was immediately accepted by the president.

New Minister Named

PY192051 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2035 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] The Brasilia Television Service, which belongs to Radiobras [Brazilian Radiobroadcasting Company], reported a few minutes ago that President Figueiredo had designated Admiral Alfredo Karam to replace Eduardo Maximiano as navy minister. Admiral Karam is currently commander of the 1st Naval District headquartered in Brasilia.

NAVY MINISTER ANNOUNCES EXOCET MISSILE PURCHASE

PY172137 Paris AFP in Spanish 1343 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 17 Mar (AFP) -- Brazilian Navy Minister Maximiano has announced that the Brazilian War Navy will purchase Exocet missiles to equip the corvettes that are in the Rio de Janeiro shipyards.

The Navy chief noted that the purchase of the missiles is in keeping with the program to reequip the Navy which includes the purchase of submarines and airplanes for the Minas Gerais aircraft carrier.

The Navy minister noted that the purchase of the Exocet missiles is part of negotiations that were to be carried out in two stages: the first stage encompasses the equipping of the new ships that must be in service by 1985, and the second stage provides for the local manufacture of some components.

He added that it was the Brazilian Navy's intention to carry out negotiations for the purchase of the Israeli-made Gabriel missile and the Italian-made Otomat missile. However, the manufacturers of armored and light weapons like Engesa and Imbel have reported that an eventual purchase of Israeli missiles may threaten important sales of war materiel to certain Middle East countries, particularly Iraq.

The Exocet will be fitted on two of the six antisubmarine frigates (ASM) of the Constitucao class that have been at the service of the Brazilian War Navy since 1979.

Also Gabriel Missiles

TA171826 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] The Brazilian Navy is going to buy surface-to-surface Gabriel missiles from Israel, similar to the French Exocet missile, and Otomat missiles from Italy, the Brazilian naval minister has announced.

AIR-TO-AIR 'PIRANHA' MISSILE REPORTEDLY READY

PY191838 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 18 Mar 84 p 38

[Text] Sao Paulo -- Brigadier Hugo Piva, the director general of the Aerospace Technology Center (CTA), has reported that the "Piranha" missile is ready and that it will be used by the AMX jet fighter that EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] will build in cooperation with Italian companies. He noted that "the Piranha has been under development since 1975 and will now undergo tests in the F-5 fighter. The tests in the FAB's [Brazilian Air Force] Xavante have been completely successful." According to Brig Piva, the "Piranha" -- a missile that will be the first in a series of air-to-air and surface-to-air missiles -- will be built by the D.F. Vasconcelos Co, a firm that is already producing the SBAT-37, 70, and 127 ballistic rockets (SBAT means air-to-surface ballistic system), which were also developed by the CTA.

The "Piranha" will allow us to develop a more sophisticated missile of the Exocet type in the medium term, perhaps 4 or 5 years. It has a computerized guidance system, which has been developed by the CTA. The computer is carried aboard the plane and prevents the missile from missing the target. The missile also has an infrared system capable of tracking the heat produced by the engine of a fighter, the CTA director general said. He said that the first "Piranha" missile will leave the assembly line this year and that "it will represent a major step forward from the standpoint of our sovereignty. It is easy to move and maintain, and its fuel, produced by the IMBEL [Ordnance Industry] at its Piquete plant, leaves no trace and produces no smoke. This makes it easier to surprise the enemy."

The CTA is developing several types of bombs, including fire bombs, fragmentation bombs, and delayed explosion bombs. "We are now developing a 'cluster' [in English]-type bomb which has more than 200 pellets that spread out. It can be used against parked planes, railroad junctions, parked vehicles, or other targets," Brig Piva concluded.

SPECIAL METAL FOR TANK ARMOR DEVELOPED

PY191816 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 18 Mar 84 p 38

[Excerpts] After the war material sector experienced its expansion on the strength of ENGESA [Specialized Engineers, Inc] exports 10 years ago, the national armament industry, on directives from the Armed Forces, began to develop import-substitution products that can also be exported. ENGESA President Jose Luis Whitaker Ribeiro recognizes that the industry could have never reached the scale of production if has by only serving the internal markets. The ENGESA president, who is also the president of IMBEL [Ordinance Industry], made this observation: "Exports make the national armaments industry viable, in addition to creating jobs internally."

The Osorio tank is one of the new products of the Brazilian armament industry, and its development has already cost ENGESA $50 million. It will be armored with a special metal which was developed by the Eletrometal Co of Campinas. "This is such an advanced armor that I doubt there will be a similar product anywhere in the world for another 5 years." Eletrometal President Jose de Souza Dinis said. The Osorio armor is made of a metal that is lighter and more resistant that those conventionally used in heavy tanks.

The Eletrometal Co has already prepared the metal sheets that will be used in the submarine the Navy intends to build with FRG technology.

FINANCE MINISTER TRAVELS TO JAPAN, PRC

PY191629 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Mar 84 p 52

[Excerpts] Heading a large delegation of businessmen and government officials, Finance Minister Ernane Galveas today arrives in Tokyo for a 4-day visit that will be extended to the PRC until 26 March. Before embarking for this trip on Friday, Minister Galveas said: "I am going as a traveling salesman to sell what I can -- steel, wood, sugar."

The Brazilian mission is visiting Japan and the PRC to expand foreign sales through increased trade with those countries. Brazil wants to sell arms to the PRC, and Brazilian experts will get together with the PRC ordnance industry minister on 23 March.

The discussions will be more difficult with Japan, because Brazil will reiterate its request that the Japanese Eximbank front commercial credits to products exported to Brazil on the order of $400 million, according to Galveas. There is doubt about the acceptance of this request because the Japanese have placed Brazil on the red list, which implies economic risks due to a bad balance-of-payments position.

On Thursday, Minister Galveas will begin talks in Beijing with Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Chen Muhua. Other members of the delegation will talk with the agriculture minister, the commerce and technological cooperation deputy minister, the Bank of China president, the petroleum industry minister, the ordnance industry minister, the machine-building industry minister, the posts and telecommunications minister, and the railways minister. Minister Galveas will also meet with the PRC finance minister and will inaugurate a branch of the Bank of Brazil in Beijing.

GOVERNOR LEONEL BRIZOLA HOSPITALIZED WITH STONES

PY191141 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] An X-ray to be taken this morning will be the basis for making the decision on whether Governor Leonel Brizola will undergo surgery for the removal of kidney stones. The governor's general condition is good.

Brizola spent Sunday taking medication, and he is being nourished with glycogen serum and light soups.

SOCIALIST LEADER URGES UNITY, CALLS RALLY

PY211129 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The socialist bloc has advocated the unity of all democratic opposition forces. In a press conference held today, Ricardo Nunez, a leader of this bloc, announced that a rally will be held at Caupolican Theater on 23 March. Nunez said that the rally will be held to pay homage to the memory of late President Salvador Allende and that a proposal for unity will be made public.

[Begin Nunez recording] Unity is the pass word now. We all speak about unity, and we socialists want to state our responsible opinion on how to achieve the unity of all democratic opposition forces who want a swift return of democracy in our country. [end recording]

DEL VALLE REPLIES TO AUSTRIA'S LANC ON SEGUEL

PY211119 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle has said that political activist Rodolfo Seguel is trying to destabilize the government. This was Del Valle's answer to a petition from his Austrian counterpart who had asked that the agitator not be deprived of his status as a union leader. Del Valle also explained to his counterpart, Erin Lanc, that Seguel was deprived of his status by the Labor directorate, strictly in compliance with the laws in effect. He added that the activist was not even a worker because he had been fired from his job in June of last year. Furthermore, he was not a union member because his own union had withdrawn his card because he failed to pay his monthly union dues.

Foreign Minister Del Valle also told the Austrian foreign minister that the institution and the laws are being hampered by individuals and groups that pursue political objectives outside the legal system. He explained that in Seguel's specific case, the man is openly seeking to destabilize the supreme government-resorting to means which, in some instances, are illegal. Minister Del Valle went on to explain to the Austrian foreign minister that Seguel has the right to appeal to the courts any measure that he may deem harmful to his interests.

DEL VALLE ON RIGHTS, MEDIATION, SAFE-CONDUCT

PY201510 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Asked about the Geneva meeting on the human rights issue in Chile, Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle has said that this is another method used by the Soviet Union to attempt to show a completely (?distorted) image of Chile.

[Begin Del Valle recording] Well, I feel that the commission has not looked into all the details with due fairness [words indistinct]. This is a completely biased report on Chile. I believe that this will be another occasion for the Soviet Union to try to cast a completely unrealistic image of Chile. [end recording]

Del Valle added that Chile does not need a special overseer for domestic affairs [words indistinct] because other countries that openly violate human rights do not have such an overseer.

Regarding the mediation [on the Beagle Channel issue] Del Valle said that this is a crucial week, and that our delegation is busy in Rome, and that one must wait patiently as the days go by.

Finally, Del Valle said that there was no news regarding the request submitted by Costa Rica for a safe-conduct for the Marxist activist Cecilia Suarez who has been staying in the Costa Rican Embassy for more than a week.

ADM MERINO DENIES CONFLICT WITH DEFENSE MINISTER

PY202327 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino Castro, a member of the Chilean Military Junta, today denied that there are disagreements between him and Defense Minister Vice Admiral Patricio Carvajal. The two officers flatly denied any conflict of opinion between themselves and Adm Merino said that there are always people ready to disseminate bad news. Admirals Merino and Carvajal met at the O'Higgins Hall of La Moneda Palace where shortly after their talk with journalists President Augusto Pinochet pinned insignia on newly promoted admirals.

GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS INTERNAL SITUATION 'QUIET'

PY201719 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Police and security officers have jointly reviewed with the president of the Republic the situation in Chile, which is considered quiet. Minister Secretary General of Government Alfonso Marquez de la Plata then reported on this review. In addition Marquez de la Plata said that subversive groups are committing certain crimes in order to make the people feel that there is disorder in the country. This is in reference to the bombs that were planted last Friday night.

Marquez de la Plata said that the Communist arty's call to join the protest was another subject that was discussed in the meeting with the president. He added that this was by no means the main topic. Marquez de la Plata downplayed the significance of the call and said that most people in Chile do not endorse this type of action.

EX-INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR ESCAPES DYNAMITE ATTACK

PY210140 Paris AFP in Spanish 0059 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Santiago, 20 Mar (AFP) -- General Manuel Contreras, retired, former director of the dissolved DINA (National Intelligence Directorate), tonight was the target of a dynamite attack, but according to unofficial reports the Army officer managed to escape with his life.

'TERRORISTS' HIT NEWSPAPER DISTRIBUTION OFFICE

PY202130 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] A terrorist commando group today carried out a spectacular raid on a newspaper distribution office in this capital. The terrorists were almost captured by Carabineros who arrived at the site of the crime at the very moment that the terrorists were effecting their escape.

According to the official report, the attack took place at the office located at No 1019 (?Cano) Street in San Miguel District. Shortly before attacking the place, two individuals stopped a taxi driven by Osvaldo Torres Gallardo in the sector of Paradero Catorce of Gran Avenida. A few minutes after they had entered the cab, the terrorists pulled out firearms and forced the driver to stop the vehicle. He was then tied up, gagged, and bundled into the trunk of the cab, license plate No OZA951.

Aftermaking several turns, the vehicle again stopped and picked up two other subversive criminals. The terrorist commando group drove to the newspaper distribution office where they pulled out automatic firearms with which they threatened some 20 persons, making some of them lie down on the floor while the attackers took approximately 300,000 pesos in cash.

Just when the terrorists were getting ready to flee, a patrol car of the 30th Precinct arrived. When the police realized what was going on they tried to prevent the subversives from escaping; thus they fired several shots, some of which hit the rear window of the cab. The subversives did not fire back, however throwing instead several tire puncturing devices out the windows. This allowed them to escape because the police car had to stop after three of its tires burst.

Further investigation led to the discovery of the taxi which had been abandoned at No 374 Teniente Soto Street in San Miguel District. A bomb was found on the back seat of the car and had to be defused by experts. The cab driver was afterwards freed, and he was able to supply information that may further the investigation. It is believed that the terrorists who perpetrated the spectacular raid are hiding in La Legua neighborhood. The police have set up a dragnet although so far results of this operation are not known.

AD LEADER VALDES VISITS PUNTA ARENAS PRISONERS

PY210014 Santiago Chile Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Relay from Radio Presidente Ibanez in Punta Arenas by (Mario Romero)]

[Text] Gabriel Valdes, chairman of the Democratic Alliance [AD], said that this political opposition group has not discussed staging a general strike so far. The politician arrived in Punta Arenas yesterday to convey his support to those arrested at the Punta Arenas parade ground on 26 February when President Pinochet visited to this region.

Gabriel Valdes yesterday met in prison with Carlos Mladinic, regional president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and with Jose Ruiz di Giorgio, president of the Oil Workers Federation, who have been in jail for more than 3 weeks.

In the afternoon Valdes attended a ceremony at Cervantes movie theater where he spoke to a large crowd. He then held meetings with PDC and AD union, social, and youth leaders of Punta Arenas.

This morning, before boarding the plane which took him back to Santiago, Gabriel Valdes held a press conference during which he discussed various current issues. He reiterated the differences that separate the AD and the PDC from the Communist Party.

He also opposed any kind of terrorism and said that regimes like the current one curtail the people's right to express themselves freely and democratically thereby encouraging terrorism.

After describing the current economic status quo marked by bankruptcies, unemployment, misery, and despair, Valdes said that Chile must return to democracy in the wake of other Latin American countries.

Meanwhile another event shook Punta Arenas today. A bomb exploded at a cultural center where artists who oppose the government usually meet. According to a Carabineros report the device was made with black powder. The shock wave destroyed the floor and the windows of the building. This is the first terrorist attack in Punta Areanas during the 10 years of military rule. A few days ago neighborhood leaders and residents at large received ieath threats from a self-styled champions of the Fatherland Command [Comando de Defensores de la Patria].

UNIONS DISAGREE ON COMMUNIST PARTY PARTICIPATION

PY200150 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The National Union Coordinating Board [CNS] is being faced with some dissension regarding the fate of the Chilean labor movement. The disagreements cropped up at a recent meeting held in Mendoza, Argentina, which was attended by many representatives of the workers. At this meeting the president of the CNS proposed the creation of a single, pluralist labor confederation, that is to say, one that would include the Communist Party. This stand was not shared by one group of leaders among whom was Eduardo Rios, president of the UDT [Democratic Union of Workers], who advocated that the only true confederation is the National Workers Command led by Rodolfo Seguel.

The argument has wreaked havoc among the members of the CNS and forced (Hernan Merit), a leader of this organization who is in charge of labor affairs, to state publicly his disagreement with CNS President Manual Bustos, and to support the UDT stand.

COMMUNIST PARTY DECLARATION CALLS FOR UNITY

AU191931 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 16 Mar 84 p 7

[CTK dispatch: "Necessity of a Resolute Fight; Communist Party of Chile on the Situation in the Country"]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Mar -- Further powerful, popular battles against the Pinochet dictatorship are being prepared in Chile, battles that should culminate in a general protest strike. This is stated in the declaration published clandestinely by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Chile in the Chilean capital.

The greatest responsibility for the deep, general crisis in Chile lies with General Pinochet, who must immediately leave. He, in fact, is the main obstacle preventing the establishment of a provisional government, which should be composed of all anti-dictatorial forces in the country, and which should ensure the conditions for restoring freedom and democracy and for speedily eliminating unemployment and poverty among the broad strata of the Chilean population.

The accomplishment of this intention primarily depends on a deepened unity of and strengthened fight by all working people for the reunification of all left-wing forces within the framework of the Popular Democratic Movement (MDP) and on an agreement between all components of the opposition.

The Chilean Communists are appealing to all forces that are being oppressed by the fascist regime to join in the Day of National Protest, which is being organized for 27 March by the National Leadership of Working People (CNT) and by other opposition organizations. The Communist Party of Chile rejects all maneuvers aimed at dividing the Chilean opposition and all the various "compromise solutions" that are being proposed by certain forces, and it stresses that fascism can be overthrown only by a resolute and coordinated fight of the entire opposition. It is also a significant task of all components of the opposition to exert influence on members of the Chilean Armed forces to make them grasp that the time has come when they can no longer support the completely compromised regime.

UK ASKS EXPULSION OF ALLEGED WAR CRIMINAL RAUFF

PY152058 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpt] John Hickman, the British ambassador to Chile, has said: We have requested Walter Rauff's expulsion from Chile. We believe that all war crimes must be punished and we know that the Chilean Government has the sovereign right to expel any foreign citizen. The British ambassador requested Rauff's expulsion from Chile because he is charged with committing war crimes in Germany. John Hickman, who met with Oscar Fuentes, the Foreign Ministry Political Department director general, noted that following his government's instructions, he requested Rauff's expulsion from Chile to express support for the requests made by the U.S. and FRG Governments, which have also requested Rauff's extradition and expulsion.

Del Valle Comments on Request

PY152300 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime Del Valle has said that no one will pressure Chile into extraditing or expelling Walter Rauff, a former high-ranking member of the German Army. He added that he believes that it is strange that pressure is being exerted on the Chilean Government to issue a decision on this.

[Begin recording] [Del Valle] Chile's position on Mr Rauff's expulsion has been specified several times. I believe that they [Great Britain] will request Rauff's extradition, not his expulsion. This is something totally different because it is a judicial matter, not [word indistinct]. I believe that Great Britain has the right to submit an extradition request [words indistinct] therefore it is up to the Supreme Court to decide whether an extradition would be fitting or not.

[Question indistinct]

[Del Valle] They will obtain the same negative answer that the FRG received.

[Question indistinct]

[Del Valle] They can request anything they want. They will not pressure us [words indistinct] no reason for being, particularly when the request is being made 21 years after the Supreme Court rejected a request to extradite Mr Rauff.

[Question indistinct]

[Del Valle] I cannot explain it at all. This has been my answer to all those ambassadors who have raised the issue. It is completely inexplicable to me why this issue is being raised 21 years after the Supreme Court has already issued a decision on the case and why a request of this kind is being submitted now and not during a previous regime. [end recording]

MATAMOROS ON GUERRILLA LINKS WITH DRUG TRAFFIC

PA201901 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Riohacha -- Speaking here, Defense Minister General Gustavo Matamoros has again charged that there is an alliance between the drug traffickers and the guerrillas for processing drugs and supplying weapons.

Gen Matamoros asserted that the existence of guerrilla drug traffickers became evident in last week's operations in the jungles in Caqueta and more specifically on the Yali Plains, where several cocaine-processing laboratories were dismantled. According to him, it was determined that in the [words indistinct] there were FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] and M-19 [19 April Movement] overseers of a sort, who controlled the cocaine production and transportation and at the same time provided protection.

Gen Matamoros suggested that the guerrillas are not only receiving substantial amounts of money but are getting weapons from abroad.

FLORENCIA CLASHES, REBEL AMBUSHES REPORTED

PA201605 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Mar 84 pp 1-A, 2-A

[Report by Nelson Osorio Patino and Juan Jose Hoyos]

[Excerpts] Florencia, 18 Mar -- The Army and M-19 [19 April Movement] rebels commanded by Gustavo Arias Londono waged a total of nine clashes today in the countryside near Sucre, 35 km from Huila. These clashes, which took place in a rough mountainous area of the Cordillera Oriental, resulted in several dead and wounded on both sides.

Official sources have reported that four Army soldiers were killed during a rebel ambush on a military convoy that was supporting a pursuit operation. One sergeant identified as Valbuena, one corporal, and two soldiers were killed, and two warrant officers were wounded in the action. It was reported that one lieutenant was slightly wounded as combat resumed Sunday.

Meanwhile, local peasants claim that dozens of Army soldiers were killed as they chased the rebels, who ambushed the convoy that was headed toward Cerro Negro. Five soldiers were recently murdered there. The number of guerrillas killed was ignored.

Several local families began fleeing their homes today due to the harsh effects of the military operations.

Military spokesmen have indicated that approximately 100 rebels have been encircled by 3,000 troops inside a 2,000 m area.

In other reports, the only road leading into Florencia is under tight security and traffic movement is only being allowed during certain hours. It was also reported that all traffic on the road has been restricted to one lane.

Army Plans Offensive

PA201623 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Florencia -- At least 11 guerrillas have been killed in the fighting in the rural area around Florencia in the past 3 days. Four soldiers have been killed in the same action.

Although Army Operational Command No 12 has released no official estimates on the results of the fierce fighting with M-19 [19 April Movement] elements, it has been learned that the number of casualties on both sides is high.

The fighting is mostly taking place in the jurisdictions of (Cabilete) and Santa Elena, some 35 km from Florencia. It was particularly heavy on Saturday, 2 days after the attack on Florencia by guerrillas under the command of Gustavo Arias Londono, alias Boris.

It has also been learned that substantial reinforcements, involving combat units from several of the country's regiments, have arrived in Florencia in the last few hours and it is believed that the final offensive to capture or kill the insurgents -- who are trying to escape through the Cordillera Oriental -- will be launched today.

M-19 COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCES OPERATIONS TO RESUME

PA202012 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 17 Mar 84 p 1

[Report by Jairo Adolfo Calvache Caicedo]

[Text] Popayan, 16 Mar -- The clandestine 19 April Movement, M-19, has issued a communique in Popayan which announces that the group will resume operations in the Departments of Valle del Cauca, Cauca, and Narino. Because it has been impossible to attain peace in Colombia despite all efforts, and because some sectors have blocked the realization of a national dialogue, the M-19 has announced the consolidation of a western front as the base for operations in those three departments of southwestern Colombia. The rebel group has surfaced in Cauca after a prolonged absence and has said that it will immediately begin fighting for the dignity of Narino, the reconstruction of Popayan, the recovery of Indian lands in Cauca Department, and for the redemption of the Pacific coast of Cauca, which is considered one of the most neglected, yet richest areas of the country.

Disowns, Chooses Leaders

PA202033 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 17 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Medellin -- Members of the "Arnulfo Munoz Cardozo" company of the M-19's [19 April Movement] southern front today announced that it has disowned Ivan Marino Ospina and Alvaro Fayad as its representatives. The company considers these men traitors to the revolutionary cause.

The members also reported in a bulletin delivered to CARACOL-Medellin that Gustavo Airas Londono, alias "Captain Boris," who headed the armed action against the city of Florencia 2 days ago, has been chosen as the sole commander of the M-19.

In the same communique released yesterday in Medellin, the M-19 announced an intensification of its attacks.

The southern front disclosed that during a meeting held recently in the jungles of Caqueta Department, it was agreed to expel Ospina and Fayad from the M-19, because their objectives had been to surrender the insurrection process "which we have forged through many sacrifices and struggles," according to the text of the M-19 declaration.

FARC EXECUTES THREE INDIAN 'INFORMANTS'

PA200238 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Popayan -- Three Indian peasants have been shot to death at separate places by members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, who accused them of being Army informants.

According to the authorities, four men and a woman executed Indian Gilberto Dagua, 48, in the (Yambalo) main square. Later, two brothers named Buendia, both accused of being informants, were executed in a rural area of (Yambalo). In both cases the killers left FARC's subversive propaganda and a note explaining the reasons for the executions.

EPL KILLS POLICEMAN, BURNS BALLOT BOXES

PA192241 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Mar 84 p 3-A

[By Gustavo Ramirez O.]

[Excerpts] Medellin -- A police sergeant was killed and another policeman wounded during last night's 5-hour occupation by the EPL [Peoples Liberation Army] of Peque, a small town in southeast Antioquia, 226 km from Medellin.

On Monday, this same guerrilla organization went into a corregimiento in the municipality of Buritica and burned all the ballots cast by the peasants during the elections.

Thirty men dressed as policemen, soldiers, and civilians came into Peque at 2030 and attacked three policemen who were patrolling the peaceful streets of the town.

A military source said that this guerrilla column was the same one that occupied "Urarco," a corregimiento in the municipality of Buritica, adjacent to Peque, on Sunday.

On that day approximately 60 armed men invaded the town, assembled and harangued the residents at the park, and later destroyed the ballot boxes where the people had cast their votes for councilmen and deputies for the Department of Antioquia.

It is believed that the guerrillas walked north on Sunday and Monday and showed up in Peque on Monday night.

On Saturday, the eve of the elections, other EPL commandoes carried out a surprise attack on a caravan of vehicles between the corregimiento of Nutibara and Frontino. They made all the government delegates get out of the vehicles, then burned two campers that belonged to a liquor factory and the HIMAT [Hydrology, Meteorology and Soil Preparation Institute].

Also on Sunday in Tierra Alta and Montelibano, Cordoba Department, an EPL column attacked a police patrol and killed two policemen..

Guerrilla groups have already killed 17 policemen in Antioquia this year.

CUBAN GOVERNMENT RESUMES AMBASSADORIAL RELATIONS

PA210119 Paris AFP in Spanish 2049 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Quito, 20 Mar (AFP) -- The Governments of Ecuador and Cuba today resumed and normalized diplomatic relations when Carlos Zamora Rodriguez, the new Cuban ambassador to Quito, presented his credentials to Ecuadoran President Osvaldo Hurtado.

In August 1979, a few days after Jaime Roldos assumed the presidency of Ecuador following 10 years of dictatorship, diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level were established between the two countries. These relations were suspended and reduced to the level of charge d'affaires in March 1981. This suspension of diplomatic relations occurred after Cuban special police forces evacuated the Ecuadoran Embassy in Havana without authorization from the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry.

However, when Raul Alfonsin was inaugurated as Argentine president in Buenos Aires, Hurtado and Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez agreed to reestablish normal diplomatic relations, which was done today.

The new Cuban ambassador gave Hurtado a message from Fidel Castro, congratulating Hurtado again for the initiative that concluded with the Latin American Economic Conference. Castro also invited him to visit Cuba. Ecuadoran Ambassador to Cuba Eduardo Santos today left for Havana, where he will present his credentials at the end of this month.

MILITARY DISSOLVES ESMERALDAS STRIKE COMMITTEE

PA201932 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The Esmeraldas strike committee was dissolved yesterday by a military edict issued by the commander of that province's security zone, in compliance with military orders and the National Security Law. The strike committee, meeting in Tena, had agreed to suspend the strike for 8 days while the government found ways to increase the income of Esmeraldas, Radio Ecuador reported. In order, issued by General Jorge Asanza in (Coturri), Esmeraldas, came after the strike committee, speaking through Luis Lopez Estupinan, its president, made public several of the demands drafted by the [word indistinct] and legislative powers following the decisions reached by the strikers during the stormy assembly that they held on Sunday evening. It was indicated that the strike would resume if the government rejected their proposals and failed to decree extra income for Napo-Pastaza Province. Gen Asanza announced the military edict dissolving the strike committee over local television.

Meanwhile, oil exploration activities in northeastern Ecuador are gradually returning to normal now that the strike in Napo-Pastaza ended. Rodrigo Ceron, general director of hydrocarbons, reported that as soon as the Armed Forces took action to establish the free flow of traffic in the area, the workers and technicians from the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation were able to return to work without problems and to resume exploration, which had come to a halt during the strike.

REPORT OF OPERATION ON STROESSNER DENIED

PY201705 Paris AFP in Spanish 1528 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Asuncion, 20 Mar (AFP) -- A report that Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner underwent an operation last Thursday was denied at noon today by an official Paraguayan spokesman. The report disseminated abroad by a U.S. news agency is false and unfounded, the spokesman said. According to the report, a foreign doctor came to Paraguay for the specific purpose of operating on the president. Yesterday and today President Stroessner reported to his office at the presidential palace and met with several cabinet ministers and with personalities from various sectors, the spokesman said.

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM UNITED STATES

PY171326 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 17 Mar 84 p 10

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Carlos Augusto Saldivar returned from the United States yesterday. High-ranking officials from the Foreign Ministry, the U.S. Embassy in our country, and the OAS office in Asuncion met him on his arrival at the international airport.

INTERIOR MINISTRY WARNS POLITICAL PARTIES

PY201913 Asuncion Domestic Service in Spanish 1530 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Announcer read statement by the Interior Ministry -- date not given]

[Text] In view of the mobilization of irregular and pseudo-democratic minorities striving to carry out illegal actions in our country, the national government believes it is proper to state the following:

1. That is reasserts its staunch support for republican principles and for a democratic representative government as well as its unyielding decision to uphold human rights by safeguarding freedom, equality, order, justice, peace, security, development, and the well-being of the entire nation.

2. That it does not recognize the right to violate the law and that just as it has decided to strictly uphold our nation's juridical order, it will demand that all citizens and political parties strictly comply with the law so as to stop those who strive to undermine democracy with the ultimate objective of destroying it, since a state of rights only prevails when the government and its people are equally subjected to the enforcement of the law.

3. That within this framework, it categorically safeguards the full exercise of rights by guaranteeing the actions of all citizens and political parties, that is, whenever this is done in keeping with the Constitution, the electoral law, and all other laws in force.

4. That the aforementioned groups are not acting in keeping with the measures established by the Constitution and the laws since despite the fact that they are not legally recognized political parties, they strive to exercise the rights of legally constituted political parties and by alluding to be struggling for an alleged democratization of the country and the full exercise of citizens' rights, they carry out actions with the sole objective of discrediting the national government, of violating the established legal order, and of undermining democracy.

5. That the violation of the law and the destruction of democracy, either willingly or unwillingly, is one of the objectives of international totalitarian and stateless communism which is collecting victims in numerous countries on other continents and in the Americas.

6. That there are specific constitutional measures and laws clearly establishing methods and conditions so that all citizens may carry out their political activities and that these laws also clearly prohibit the establishment and operation of all political parties that aim to destroy the prevailing republican representative democratic system or the multiparty system. These laws also prohibit Paraguayan political parties from subordinating to or allying themselves with foreign political parties and prohibit receiving orders or monetary contributions from abroad.

7. That the national government that is supported by the will of the people, which was clearly expressed in the last elections, and that is legally composed of representatives of the National Republican Assoication, the Colorado Party, and the participation of minorities, reasserts that it will fully exercise its powers and that it will not tolerate the disruption of public order or the violation of the laws.

8. That in keeping with the aforementioned, and to safeguard the normal political and juridical situation the country is experiencing, the national government, which upholds the principle of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other countries and the self-determination of nations, will not allow foreign political parties or groups to use national territory for the holding of either national or international ceremonies or meetings to plot unknown schemes behind the backs of their respective people. All of this is promoted by irregular groups that illegally use the names and emblems of legally constituted political parties.

9. That it reasserts that at all times it will uphold the dignity of the government, the dignity of the glorious Armed Forces of the nation, of the police, of all national authorities elected in free elections, of those national authorities that have been appointed in keeping with the laws in force, and of the sovereignty of the Republic of Paraguay.

Asuncion, 20 March 1984,

Interior Ministry Press Office

AUTHORITIES DETAIN ABC COLOR DIRECTOR ZUCCOLILLO

PY161746 Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] ABC COLOR Director Aldo Zuccolillo was arrested this morning at police headquarters. Zuccolillo had been summoned by the public order chief of the Asuncion police to be in his office at 1000 today. The police notice said that if the director of ABC COLOR newspaper was not in his office when the notice was delivered, he could be replaced by Dr Enrique Bordenave, a member of ABC COLOR's executive board. The police document added that if Bordenave was also absent, he could be replaced by board members Geronimo Angulo Gaston or Carlos Pedretti, or by chief editor Luis Alberto Mauro.

Zuccolillo appeared at police headquarters along with Dr Geronimo Angulo Gaston and chief editor Luis Alberto Mauro. Only Mr Zuccolillo entered the police chief's office while the other two waited for him in a lounge. After 2 hours, close to noon, Gaston and Mauro were told that they could leave and that the ABC COLOR director would be detained. No reasons have yet been given for Zuccolillo's arrest.

ABC COLOR Editorial Critical

PY171720 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 17 Mar 84 p 10

[Editorial: "The Arbitrary Detention of Our Director"]

[Text] In any society that has a legal structure, the law is the legal instrument that has been created to establish the rules of coexistence between its members. When it is applied without taking into account its universality and when the reason that is invoked -- in this case the use of "orders from above" -- is not related to the end that is being pursued, thus avoiding the use of judicial procedures, then we run the risk of discrimination and punishment for certain persons and sectors. This appears to be the case of the director of this newspaper. He has been detained and he is being held incommunicado at police headquarters.

Past experience with other detentions, which have always started with an "order from above," too frequently demonstrates that the state has not been consistent in applying constitutional dictates, unless some of the detentions are intended to demonstrate power or serve as a warning and, if this is the case, it has no valid basis because it violates the law and harms the higher interests of the nation.

From the method that has been used with the director of this newspaper it can be understood that the only probable conclusion that can be made -- and this has happened repeatedly in the cases of the detention of other journalists -- is that Article 79 of the Constitution, which implements the state of siege, has been applied, although its reason is very debatable and the lack of a "written order signed by a competent official" to carry out the surprising detention is even more debatable. It is surprising because the functions of the press and the resulting outcome have nothing to do, as we have repeatedly pointed out, with the measures of exception that are contained in the Constitution for its own defense. These measures only establish preventive and security measures for specific cases, they do not include virtual convictions such as those that have occurred during the past few years with the prior invocation of an "order from above" and which have ended up with the application of the aforementioned article of the Constitution.

Thus, this case comes close to the limits of discretion when, through an "order from above" -- which also has its levels of command and therefore confusion can stem from it -- decisions such as this one can be made, decisions that have no valid legal argument and which do no one any good. They do cause tremendous harm to the country's image and they pose a legitimate doubt about the solvency of our institutions. They also appear to be a punishment for and a kind of threat to press freedom while our authorities frequently state that they guarantee it, but, in the case of our director, they only deny this fact with the harshness of the events.

Possible Reason Given

PY171837 Asuncion Red Privada de Teledifusora Paraguaya Television in Spanish 1530 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Aldo Zuccolillo, the director of the newspaper ABC COLOR, is under detention at police headquarters.

Up to the present time no official report has been released on the reasons for the detention, but it is presumed that it is due to an article that was published in yesterday's issue of the newspaper.

Detained for Disrespect

PY182330 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 18 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] According to reports released by the Interior Ministry, Aldo Zuccolillo, director of the newspaper ABC COLOR, has been held at the Asuncion central police headquarters since Friday.

The Interior Ministry source told us the following: "He has been detained for his bad manners and lack of respect for government authorities because in the 16 March edition of ABC COLOR he published comments on an alleged registered telegram sent to the interior minister which summoned him to a meeting and requested that he produce a document, or a copy of it, and other demands which are totally irrelevant and lack the respect that a government authority deserves." Our sources added that the government is determined that the government, the authorities, and officials be shown respect, and that they will not allow destabilization and lack of consideration of the government and officials in general.

Zuccolillo is being held incommunicado as the central policy station, although he is allowed to receive visits from his relatives, our sources concluded.

Further Explanation Given

PY190114 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 18 Mar 84 p 7

[Text] The director of this newspaper, Aldo Zuccolillo, has been detained by order of Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro, for the publication of an interview with Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca, president of the Colorado Popular Movement [MOPOCO]. The interview upset the interior minister, who wanted to know the name of the reporter who held the interview and on receiving a negative answer he ordered Zuccolillo's arrest.

The interview with Gonzalez Casabianca was published by this newspaper on Friday, 16 March, on page 12, and in that interview the MOPOCO leader reported that he had sent a telegram to Minister Montanaro reporting that the next day at 1130 he would go to that ministry to demand the display of an authenticated copy of a document which reportedly belongs to the Office for Combatting Terrorism of the U.S. Department of State. In that document, MOPOCO is reportedly included among world terrorist organizations. The document is now in the hands of the interior minister. In the interview published on Friday, Gonzalez Casabianca recalled that even PATRIA in its 2 March edition extended an invitation to MOPOCO to verify the existence of the document, and that for this reason MOPOCO decided to make the request. In that interview, the MOPOCO president rejected the accusation that his movement belongs to terrorist organizations, and added that during the 25 years of this government "we, the MOPOCO members have been the victims of state terrorism. On several occasions we have been detained, tortured, and implacably persecuted," and stressed the democratic nature of the movement.

The director of this newspaper has been under detention since Friday morning at the central police station. Zuccolillo is being held incommunicado except for visits from his wife and older daughter.

On Friday, when Zuccolillo appeared before the chief of the public order department, he was asked about the reporter who interviewed Gonzalez Casabianca. Zuccolillo did not give his name because it is not the paper's policy to do so. He assumed responsibility for the interview, and added that it was not a tradition of ABC reporters to change or distort the remarks of the persons interviewed. After his conversation, Zuccolillo was detained.

Yesterday morning an ABC reporter went to the Interior Ministry to request an interview with Interior Minister Sabino Montanaro to ask him the reason for Zuccolillo's arrest. After a short wait, the reporter was told that the minister was too busy and could not receive him.

The reporter then went to see Interior Ministry Under Secretary Dario Filartiga, who agreed to receive him. Dr Filartiga told the reporter that the director of this newspaper has been held by order of the interior minister. Asked the reason, he said that "probably due to the publication of the interview with those traitors of the Colorado Party, that Gonzalez Casabianca." He added that Gonzalez Casabianca referred in the interview to the government in terms "totally inconsiderate and with a total lack of respect," and with that Dr Filartiga ended the interview.

L.A. Press Leader Critical

PY191253 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 Mar 84 p 13

[Text] La Plata (NA) -- The head of the Inter-American Press Society's commission for press freedom, Raul Kraiselburd, yesterday condemned the arrest in Paraguay of the director of the daily ABC COLOR, Aldo Zuccolillo, and requested the Paraguayan Government to respect "the minimum rights of citizens."

Opposition Parties Critical

PY191432 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 19 Mar 84 p 9

[Text] Leaders of the Radical Liberal Party (PLR), the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA), and the Colorado Popular Movement (MOPOCO) have issued communiques repudiating the arrest of the ABC COLOR publisher and requesting that he be set free.

In its communique, the PLR states that "it repudiates this new attack against press freedom leveled by the regime's regressive forces, an attack that seeks to intimidate the democratic forces." It adds that it "supports a free press and its publishers for the restoration of our citizens' pride."

The PLRA communique terms Zuccolillo's arrest as arbitrary and repudiated "this new attack carried out against the press and individual freedom." It adds that "there will be no press freedom nor people's rights as long as the autocratic structures that alienate the sovereignty of the Paraguayan people are not removed. Our party, committed to the highest interests of our fatherland, understands that unwavering respect for man's dignity and press freedom is an inescapable commitment for democracy." The communique adds that the PLRA "urges the independent press to uphold their legitimate goals to unrestrictedly exercise their rights to report and to voice their beliefs on Paraguayan reality." It also demands that Zuccolillo be set free "and that the harassment that the government unleashed a long time ago against ABC COLOR be ended."

The MOPOCO communique states that by arresting the ABC COLOR publisher, press freedom and constitutional rights have been violated once again. It concludes by stating that General Bernardino Caballero, founder of the Colorado Party, "regarded press freedom as the cornerstone for other public rights. This has been a standard for the great republican [Colorado Party] leaders who have honored our party's democratic traditions."

Interior Minister Comments

PY201348 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 20 Mar 84 p 9

[Text] In a statement made yesterday to Teledifusora Paraguaya Canal 13, Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro said that the publisher of this newspaper, Aldo Zuccolillo, "has been deprived of his freedom by virtue of Article 79 of the national Constitution, which gives authority to deprive a person who has violated the law of his freedom." We will now publish in full the statement Minister Montanaro made:

As you may already know, the information about a telex supposedly addressed to me summoning me to meet at a given time and hour with Mr Gonzalez Casabianca was commented on in an item, which was set off by a black border, in ABC COLOR last Friday. The ABC publishers and chief editor were asked who was responsible for this information, but we were unable to learn the identity of the person responsible. So, under the power vested in it by the national Constitution, the executive branch through the Interior Ministry ordered his arrest and he is now deprived of his freedom by virtue of Article 79 of the national Constitution, which gives authority to deprive a person who has violated the law of his freedom.

We understand that the way the information was provided constitutes a lack of respect for authority, because the authority, the Constitution states, the governors, the functionaries represent the people. Since the people do not govern except through their representatives, we, the representatives of the people, must enforce respect for the Constitution and the law of the Republic. Consequently, we cannot permit a minister to be given a fixed day and hour to meet a given person, and even more, that he be required to show a document, to provide a photocopy of this document, whose text you are well acquainted with because it has been widely referred to and published through appropriate channels by the ministry under my direction. Furthermore, how can we give out a document which was sent to us by a responsible office of a friendly country? So they should go to another source to obtain the copy, the original, or a photocopy of that document, because the reason the meeting was not agreed to was that it was not requested. On the contrary, he [Gonzalez Casablanca] scheduled the meeting, not me. So I will not receive him, because I know the motive behind the request and I let it be known publicly, that is, the charges that the Colorado Popular Movement is a terrorist organization.

This is why Mr Acero [a nickname] Zuccolillo has been deprived of his freedom, for having treated a government official rudely, disregarding the fact that this official is an authority acting as a representative of the people who, as I have said, can govern only through their representatives.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO U.S. ACCREDITED -- Paraguayan Ambassador to the United States Dr Marcos Martinez Mendieta presented his credentials to President Ronald Reagan during a ceremony held at the White House. [Excerpt] [Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 16 Mar 84 p 5 PY]

NEW PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR -- Juan Enrique Arevalo Alvarado-Zanartu, the new Peruvian ambassador to Paraguay, visited the newspaper ABC COLOR yesterday. This is Arevalo Alvarado-Zanartu's first ambassadorial position abroad. [Excerpt] [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 16 Mar 84 p 9 PY]

CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES SUSPENDED 3 DAYS

PY211045 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0332 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Lima, 20 Mar (EFE) -- Tonight the Peruvian Government announced the suspension of constitutional guarantees on 21, 22, and 23 March to guarantee public order during the general national strike called for Thursday. The strike has been called by the country's four labor federations to protest government economic policies and to demand salary increases.

PERCOVICH, SENATOR ON RODRIGUEZ RESIGNATION

PY201352 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Today at noon, Interior Minister Luis Percovich hinted that Rodriguez Pastor had submitted his resignation, but he categorically reasserted that Foreign Minister Fernando Schwalb will remain in his post.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] In case Fernando Schwalb eventually resigns, would you recommend Alba Orlandini as his replacement?

[Percovich] Fernando Schwalb has not resigned, and I do not think he will. He has the full trust of the president. It is up to the president to decide on the members of his cabinet. This is not a matter of recommendations or proposals.

[Reporter] Isn't the government confronting the people by continuing to enforce the same economic policy?

[Percovich] The president has said that the government's economic policy is adapted to prevailing conditions, that it is not a dogmatic economic policy, and that it must be adjusted in keeping with national and international economic developments. If the prices of minerals do not improve, we will not receive foreign financial support and therefore we must adjust our economic policy accordingly. If we have better prices, more international financial support, our economic policy will be different. [end recording]

Moreover, Senator (Gaston Acurio) has said that Rodriguez Pastor's resignation is a [words indistinct] that will benefit democracy.

However, earlier in the morning and before he was informed about Rodriguez Pastor's resignation, (Acurio) noted that Rodriguez Pastor's resignation was not convenient since it would delay the refinancing of the foreign debt.

Moreover, APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] Deputy (Humberto Carranza Piedra) and leftist Senator (Carlos Malprica) also referred to this situation.

[Begin (Carranza Piedra) recording] All Peruvians will rejoice if Rodriguez Pastor's resignation is effective, because he has caused many economic problems. But the fact that he has submitted his resignation is not enough. We want the president to accept his resignation. [end recording]

NEW ECONOMY, ENERGY MINISTERS APPOINTED

PY201845 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1354 GMT 20 Mar 84

[By Carlos Lareau]

[Excerpts] Lima, 20 Mar (EFE) -- With Jose Benavides Munoz taking over as economy minister, a situation that might have resulted in the total reshuffling of the Peruvian cabinet has been reduced to a "minicrisis."

After the resignation of Carlos Rodriguez Pastor, the cabinet member most criticized in the country even by members of the government, was accepted by President Belaunde Terry, the man who until yesterday was energy and mines minister was appointed as the new economy minister.

Juan Inchaustegui, who has been the manager of the state electricity enterprise, will replace Benavides as energy and mines minister.

The departure of Rodriguez Pastor opens a period of uncertainty regarding the new directives of the economic policy in a country that is affected by the most serious crisis in its history.

A government source who did not want to be identified told EFE last night that the strictly liberal policy which was drafted by Rodriguez Pastor will not be substantially modified, and that the rumors that it would be changed responded to "destabilizing intentions" of circles close to the government that the source did not identify.

The official communique announcing the cabinet changes used the vague language of "maintaining Peru's line of responsibility." Since the new minister, who will take office today, has not yet made any statements that cryptic phrase can be understood to mean that the IMF requirements will still be respected so as not to stop the flow of foreign credits.

From his new post, Minister Benavides will keep a close watch on the general strike that has been called by the country's four labor federations for this Thursday to demand a radical change in the economic policy.

APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] Senator Julio Cruzado, secretary general of the Workers Confederation of Peru which is one of the four organizations calling the strike, last night said that the strike will not be called off, "because a change of individuals does not mean a change of policy."

Ministers Sworn In

PY202320 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2225 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Lima, 20 Mar (EFE) -- Jose Benavides Munoz, the new economy and finance minister, and Juan Inchaustegui Vargas, the new energy and mines minister, were sworn in today. President Fernando Belaunde Terry was present at the ceremony.

CORPAC MANAGER SAYS ALL AIRPORTS OPERATIONAL

PY151333 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0430 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] (Alfredo Mazza), general manager of CORPAC [Corporation for Airports and Commercial Aviation], has reported that all Peruvian airports are operating normally despite the fact that a sector of CORPAC workers went on indefinite strike yesterday.

He added that more than 50 percent of the personnel have come to work, abandoning the strike which has been termed unacceptable by the Labor Ministry.

LIMA MAYOR BARRANTES CRITICIZES 22 MARCH STRIKE

PY161347 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0430 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Excerpts] (Hector More Rospide), general manager of the El Diamante shoe factory, and Lima Mayor Alfonso Barrantes have decried the strike which the Communist Party and the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance are organizing for 22 March.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] We would like to know your opinion of the strike that the labor confederations are calling for 22 March.

[Barrantes] Well, it is an emminently political strike which will merely worsen the economic crisis by paralyzing the nation at the very time when every working hour, every effort is necessary. It will deepen the economic crisis. It makes absolutely no sense. On one hand they are protesting against the economic crisis, and on the other they are doing their best to worsen it. [end recording]

Freight Carriers Not To Join

PY161348 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0430 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The National Association of Freight Carriers, which has 1,500 members and employs 21,000 persons throughout the nation, has reported that it will not join the strike scheduled for 22 March because it is detrimental to the nation's economy. (Elio Casaretto Postigo), president of this association told us:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr (Casaretto), we would like to know if the National Association of Freight Carriers will comply with the call to strike on 22 March?

[(Casaretto)] No, it will not. For two reasons: This is a union which has channels of communications with the government and also because our contribution to the economic development of this nation is very important and we would be jeopardizing it. [end recording]

Dock Workers Will Not Join

PY201434 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Over 5,000 workers of the national port enterprises have decided not to join the general strike scheduled for 22 March.

National Port Enterprise President (Gustavo Ballon Cegarra) noted that during a recent meeting with dock workers union leaders they said that the rank and file have never considered joining the strike.

He added that port and administrative activity will be normal throughout the 18 ports which are managed by the national enterprise.

COLORADOS, BLANCOS REJECT COMMUNIST PROPOSALS

PY201936 Montevideo El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Leaders of the Blanco and Colorado parties have in the past few hours rejected the Communist Party proposals to achieve democracy. As we have already reported, the DINARP [National Directorate of Public Relations] has issued a communique disclosing the basic guidelines of the Communist Party in our country, which were also published by a biweekly magazine published in Sweden. The Communist Party expressly recognizes the CNT [National Convention of Workers]; the FEU [Federation of University Students]; the ASCEEP [Social and Cultural Association of State school students], and the PIT [Interunion Workers Plenum]. The list of organizations that support the Communist Party also includes the so-called Democratic Convergence. The Communist Party's document undertakes the commitment to promote stronger methods of struggle in the streets, factories, and education centers. It points out that the people will be called on to engage in combative actions to seek an advanced democracy.

Referring to the strike carried out by the workers on 18 January, the document points out that it was just a foretaste of a civilian strike to be carried out with the participation of workers, students, the industrial, commercial, and agricultural sectors, that is, the entire country. It also points out that the call to struggle includes pensioners and members of cooperatives [cooperativistas].

Members of the Colorado and Blanco parties have rejected this proposal. Among the members of the National Party, [Blanco Party] especially the faction for the Fatherland, it was said that the communist declaration obviously clarifies distorted reports concerning Juan Raul Ferreira. This remark was made by Alberto Zurbaran, who also believes that institutional act No 4 will be lifted, although some time will elapse before this happens.

[Begin Zurbaran recording] Well, look, I am going to go straight to the point because this is a very delicate subject. I think that the DINARP communique is the best answer to everyone's question of why Juan Raul Ferreira was and is so eager to make it clear to the Uruguayan people that he was not in Moscow between 20 and 30 January. I think that this communique fully clears up any question on the matter. Juan Raul Ferreira is said to have been in Moscow between 20 and 30 January where an important meeting was held. This communique was issued on the 26th; therefore it is quite clear that Juan Raul Ferreira was not involved in this meeting and still less his father, Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, the main leader of the party. In our opinion, the Communist Party in exile has every right to make the explanations it may deem necessary, and in that declaration it does not say that Juan Raul Ferreira was present at the meeting. Unfortunately, an international news agency, I do not want to say whether it did it maliciously or not, linked him with that meeting and we want to let the citizenry know that that information is false. Therefore, I want to summarize what I have already said: In the first place the Communist Party in exile has every right to make any explanations it may deem necessary, such as the one which is contained in the DINARP communique; and in the second place, no Blanco Party member, and especially Juan Raul Ferreira has had anything to do with or has participated in this event with which he has no connection. [end recording]

The Colorado Party members also fully rejected the Communist Party's proposal. (Antonio Varquesano), secretary of the Colorado Party, told El Espectador, Radio Sport, and Cadena de Oro that whatever may threaten to destabilize the current dialogue seeking national elections in November is unfavorable.

[Begin (Varquesano) recording] I think that every Uruguayan citizen, including those who are abroad, should be in favor of reinstating democracy. I think that the Uruguayan phenomenon is completely different from that which, in its time, took place in Argentina and from the current Chilean phenomenon. Important progress in favor of a democratization process is being made in Uruguay. We have started a dialogue that is developing in the cordial atmosphere which prevails among those participating in the dialogue. As a consequence I believe that any attempt to destabilize the regime is harmful for the progress of negotiations. [end recording]

CARRERAS RESIGNS FROM COUNCIL OF STATE

PY210157 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Council of State member Eduardo Carreras has resigned. In his letter of resignation, Carreras asked that an agreement be reached with political parties over the amendment of the political parties law. He noted that under the current circumstances it would be inappropriate to change the existing rules without the concurrence of the parties.

POLICE BREAK UP MEETING OF BLANCO PARTY

PY191111 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0026 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Paysandu, 17 Mar (EFE) -- The Uruguayan police have disbanded a group attending a political meeting sponsored by the National, or Blanco, Party in the city of Paysandu, 300 km northeast of Montevideo, where the party was holding its regional convention. The police took action when party leaders were reiterating their support for a presidential ticket made up of Wilson Ferreira Aldunate and Carlos Julio Pereira. The members of the board that was presiding closed the meeting and left in solidarity with the people who were forced to leave by the police. Ferreira Aldunate is a proscribed leader of the Blanco Party. Currently living in Spain, he is wanted by the military courts of the "de facto" regime.

SEREGNI'S RELEASE BECOMES POLITICAL EVENT

Speaks to Supporters

PY201442 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Uruguayan General Liber Seregni was a presidential candidate in the late election, which was held in 1973. He obtained 20 percent of the votes through the Broad Front, a coalition, which in Montevideo alone obtained 30 percent of the popular vote. After the military coup Seregni was arrested and demoted. He was stripped of his title, rank, and uniform. His arrest, which began on 9 July 1973 ended today. We have exclusive coverage, through Channel 10 of Montevideo, on Seregni's release.

[Begin relay] [Seregni, addressing crowd from his apartment balcony] Thank you very much companeros [applause and shouts]. The fatherland is moving ahead to the reestablishment of democracy. [applause and shouts] This is why, companeros, I am not asking for a single negative word, or a single negative slogan [applause]. We were, we are, and we will be a constructive force, workers building the future of the fatherland [applause and shouts]. I only want to say once, and a thousand times more, thank you very much companeros. [applause and shouts]. In order to achieve the pacification needed for the Uruguayan people to live again in peace it will be necessary to have a full amnesty.

[Unidentified reporter, interviewing Seregni's lawyer, Hugo Batalla] Under what condition is General Seregni being released?

[Batalla] The final ruling of the Supreme Court says that he has served his full sentence in prison. Therefore, he is being freed with no limitations.

[Reporter] This means that starting today, if I am not mistaken, he can begin political activities. Has his proscription been lifted?

[Batalla] He is still under proscription, the proscription has not been lifted because Act No 4 is still in force. In the case of Gen Seregni the sentence, although fully served, establishes a minimum 2-year legal proscription from exercizing his political rights, but this only affects his right to vote and to receive votes. [end relay]

Demonstrators Celebrate Release

PY201726 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0406 GMT 20 Mar 84

[By Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Text] Montevideo, 19 Mar (EFE) -- After being released from prison by the military regime, General Liber Seregni has immediately involved himself in intense political activity, despite the fact that his citizen's rights are suspended for 2 more years.

Free after a decade in prison on orders from the Uruguayan military court which charged him with the "crime of insurrection," Gen Seregni, 68, immediately called for pacification and demanded unrestricted amnesty in order to make true democracy possible in the country.

Gen Seregni's release brought on a popular reaction in Uruguay, and thousands of his followers stated impromptu demonstrations against the military regime. With the release of Seregni, the left, whose leaders are all banned from public activities under the rules imposed by the government, can now reorganize its ranks.

From the moment he left jail at 1740 (2040 GMT), Seregni began receiving in his Montevideo residence most of the leaders of the political parties which in 1971 formed the "Broad Front" coalition which supported him as presidential candidate in the elections in which he received 18 percent of the votes cast.

In a public message, Seregni asked "amnesty for all political prisoners," and described his release by the High Military Tribunal as a "rendezvous with freedom and his companeros." "I come out of jail 10 years older, and yet more firmly convinced of our ideals, with the resolve to contribute to this beautiful, difficult, but undoubtedly successful march toward our country's democratic recovery." In a speech delivered from his balcony, Seregni asked his followers for "modernation," and encouraged them to sing out only "positive" slogans. Thousands of persons, especially youths, arrived in long columns at the general's residence to cheer the leader and to greet his liberation. These have been the largest demonstrations by the outlawed leftist parties since the 1973 coup.

The police did not show up in the immediate area of the general's residence or where the crowd interrupted traffic to stage demonstrations against the military regime when the general was set free.

According to his lawyer, Hugo Batalla, the military court which commuted the 14-year sentence imposed in 1978 forebade Seregni to run as a candidate in the elections promised for next November, although it is allowing him to engage in political activities.

The general's wife, Lily Lerena, told EFE that her husband will return to the political struggles "because he will never be able to quit working for the people." As for the ban against her husband, Mrs Seregni said "that can be changed." She then added: "Neither my husband nor myself think of leaving the country, not even for a vacation." One of Seregni's demands while he was in prison was to stay in the country after his release, so he has always refused to agree to any solution that would involve his exile.

Receives Colorado Leaders

PY210153 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Colorado Party Secretary General Julio Maria Sanguinetti has said that the release of Liber Seregni marks the beginning of the pacification of the nation. He made this comment tonight after greeting Seregni in the company of other members of the Colorado Party Executive Committee. Sanguinetti was accompanied by Jorge Battle, Enrique Tarigo, Luis Hierro Lopez, and Eduardo Paz Aguirre.

Upon leaving Seregni's house, Sanguinetti said that the democracy that will be born in 1985 must be strengthened by the joint efforts of all parties, because the new democracy will come to light in the middle of threats at the national and international level. Carlos Julio Pereyra, the leader of the National Movement of Rocha, also visited Seregni tonight. After the visit, he emphasized the same topics referred to by Sanguinetti.

SEPULVEDA DISCUSSES CONTADORA, C.A. PROBLEMS

PM201437 Paris LE MONDE in French 16 Mar 84 p 5

[Interview with Mexican Secretary of Foreign Relations Bernardo Sepulveda by Francis Pisani in Mexico City -- date not given]

[Excerpt] Mexico basically intends to place its activity in Central America within the framework of the efforts of the Contadora Group, to which it belongs alongside Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama. In Mr Sepulveda's opinion, this initiative, when it was launched in January 1983, was above all aimed at averting an armed conflict in an area, where tension was very high at that time. The Mexican foreign secretary finds that the diplomacy has worked so far: "The danger is perhaps less. The political cost of an armed intervention would perhaps be higher." But, he added, the danger is still latent.

"However," Mr Sepulveda stated, "we have discovered that something broader than averting war is at stake: ending the arms race, beginning a process of controlling and reducing the arms already in the region, removing the foreign military bases, ending the presence of military advisers as well as the maneuvers in the region, and in short establishing an atmosphere of coexistence among the countries of Central America."

The Mexican foreign secretary believes that the very foundations of the problem must now be tackled. "In our opinion, the Central American crisis is due to the area's grave economic and social backwardness, the existence of shaky political institutions, and in short to problems characteristic of underdevelopment which we would like to rectify by promoting the region's economic and social development."

Question: What can the Contadora Group do in this sphere?

Answer: Have what we call rallying power. An instance of this was provided by the setting up in Mexico City of the action committee for the economic and social development of Central America. This body compromises 18 Latin American countries interested in supporting the Central American development process. But "we want those concerned themselves to identify the nature of their problems and the kind of solution that should be applied."

Excellent Relations With Paris

Question: What difficulties has the Group encountered in its first year of work?

Answer: At the beginning, the enormous distrust displayed by the members of the Central American community toward each other. To this problem, which we have fortunately surmounted, have been added the difficulties created by certain forces which periodically disturb and hamper our work.

Question: What does this mean?

Answer: For instance, we have seen an armed incident each time the Contadora Group has met; whether it be a matter of the shelling of the City of Managua, the attack on Puerto Corinto, the attack on Puerto Sandino, or border incidents. We believe that there is a connection between our meetings and the desire to disrupt them with actions of this sort.

Question: You stated recently that the U.S. Government should turn from words to deeds. What did you mean by that?

Answer: The U.S. Government has clearly expressed its support of the Contadora political and diplomatic process. However, certain steps should be taken to enable this support, expressed at the highest level, to result in actual deeds. For instance, we believe that the military maneuvers carried out in the area do not contribute to the relaxation of political relations among the states.

Question: Why doesn't the Contadora Group tackle the problem of El Salvador, which many people deem to be central?

Answer: For various reasons the Contadora Group cannot take part in agreements or negotiations involving a state's internal political process. But this has not prevented Mexico and Colombia, for instance, from individually initiating actions conducive to making negotiations possible in El Salvador.

Question: France supports the Contadora process. What can it do specifically?

Answer: It can use its political influence to convince the European governments, as well as the United States, that a military solution is not feasible in Central America. France and the EEC can also have an important economic presence in the region by opening their own market to Central American products on preferential terms, by investing in Central America, or by granting financing facilities for development.

Question: What are the other topics you intend to broach during your visit to France?

Answer: We should impart real substance to the excellent diplomatic relations between us by increasing the political consultations between the two governments, as well as economic cooperation and trade.

France's share of foreign investments in Mexico has shrunk appreciably. We believe that French industry and technology could play a very useful role in our country's economic development. We would like, of course, to promote the traditionally intense cultural exchanges and outline ambitious medium-term programs capable of strengthening bilateral relations.

DANIEL ORTEGA ARRIVES FOR TALKS ON C.A. ISSUES

PA202203 Paris AFP in Spanish 2124 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Mar (AFP) -- Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, arrived here today to discuss the Central American situation with the Mexican Government.

Ortega arrived in Mexico at 1450 (2050 GMT) accompanied by the Nicaraguan ministers of foreign affairs and of the International Reconstruction Fund, Miguel D'Escoto and Edmundo Jarquin, respectively.

Demands U.S. C.A. Withdrawal

PA210322 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0200 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Mar (EFE) -- "The U.S. military presence in Central America is aggravating tension and bringing the threat of war closer to the region," Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, charged here today.

Upon arrival at the international airport in Mexico City, the Sandinist leader harshly criticized Ronald Reagan's government, saying: "It threatens Central America and creates tension there." Ortega, who will be here for 2 days to meet with Mexican President Miguel de La Madrid and Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda, said that it is necessary "to halt the warmongering attitude" of the United States.

He noted that Nicaragua has made great efforts to prevent problems in Central America, but that the United States creates and encourages these problems. The Central American region, he added, "is getting closer to war. There is much mourning for the deaths of many people, especially children."

In an impromptu press conference, Ortega demanded that "the United States withdraw from Central America and let Nicaragua hold its elections."

He rejected the suggestion that the presence of the Soviet warship Leningrad in American waters is creating tension in the region, maintaining that U.S. ships are the only vessels that do so.

Ortega also expressed his wish to meet with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to inform him of the current situation in the Central American countries. Perez de Cuellar will begin an official visit to Mexico tomorrow. He is expected to arrive at 1930 GMT and had no activities scheduled, so it may be possible for him to meet with the Sandinist leader. The coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta said that he wants to invite Perez de Cuellar to Central America to get a first-hand look at the situation, about which Nicaragua has informed the United Nations.

Ortega will meet with Foreign Secretary Sepulveda today and will be received by Mexican President De La Madrid tomorrow, after which he will travel to the City of Puebla. Even though Ortega is on a private visit, he was greeted at the airport by Joaquin Bernal, director of protocol at the Mexican Foreign Secretariat. The Nicaraguan Junta coordinator is accompanied by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and Edmundo Jarquin, minister of the International Reconstruction Fund.

UN SECRETARY GENERAL TO ARRIVE 21 MARCH

FL201932 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1610 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Diplomatic sources have reported that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, accompanied by a small retinue, would arrive in Mexico City tomorrow, Wednesday.

Perez de Cuellar will arrive at Mexico City's international airport from New York at 1300 on Aeromexico Flight 405. He will be met by Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor and UN officials in this country.

The sources revealed that during his first visit to Mexico as UN secretary general, Perez de Cuellar would speak in favor of international peace and security, increased friendly relations, and cooperation in the solution of all international conflicts. They said that on the day after his arrival, the secretary general would visit the Main Temple and the National Museum of Anthropology and History in the morning, and in the afternoon he would meet with Foreign Secretary Sepulveda Amor.

On Friday, the 23d, he will attend a session of the Permanent Committee of Congress and then he will meet privately with President Miguel de la Madrid. He will then hold a press conference at Los Pinos, the presidential residence. Later the same day, he will travel to the City of Merida, in Yucatan. He will depart from there for New York City.

ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES BILATERAL TIES

FL170054 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1815 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico and Argentina are seeking ways to increase bilateral cooperation in the economic, commercial, and financial fields and in science and technology, Argentine Ambassador to Mexico Rafael Vazquez stated here today.

In an exclusive statement to the government daily EL NACIONAL, the diplomat said President Miguel de la Madrid's upcoming visit to his country will be very positive because it means a rapprochement has been reached between two nations having the same culture, tradition, and history. He said the Mexican president's visit to Argentina is a magnificent occasion for the Argentines to realize that they do not stand alone in these moments of crisis and that the visit will strengthen the existing bonds of friendship.

Vazquez stated that, in view of the friendly relations between the two nations, the possibility was being studied of having all Argentines who leave Argentina for the north travel via Mexico.

Referring to the Argentine domestic political situation, the ambassador stated categorically that the Argentine Government has fixed norms for ruling the nation and that the executive, legislative, and judicial powers are all functioning. Power rests with the people and the Constitution, he said.

With regard to the option presented by the organization of the Action Committee in Support of the Economic and Social Development of Central America (CADESCA), he said it is very important for the support of the Contadora Group because it points out a direction for a Central American solution regarding economic development.

Commenting on rumors that Argentina's democracy may be in danger, the diplomat said democracy resides in the souls of the people as was shown in the last elections when the majority -- 52 percent -- voted in support of the new government.

Concluding, Rafael Vazquez stated that in contrast with other occasions when the votes were divided among diverse parties, this time they were divided between the two most important groups in Argentina.

COOPERATION AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH BELIZE

FL150034 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2234 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico has never harbored adverse feelings toward the territory, independence, and sovereignty of other states, or extracted an unjust economic advantage from weak nations, a high Belizean official said here today. Belizean Education, Sports, Culture, and Economic Development Minister Said Musa made these comments when referring to Mexico's profound positive impact on the Caribbean and Central American countries in favor of peace and stability.

At the conclusion of the signing ceremony of bilateral agreements finalized at the second meeting of the Mexico-Belize Commission for Cultural and Educational Exchange, Musa said that Mexico has been loyal to its commitments aimed at developing mutual and beneficial relations with the newly independent state.

He added that the whole world knows about Mexico's courageous and indefatigable participation in the Contadora process, which for the past 14 months, together with Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela, has been seeking a peaceful solution in Central America. Mexico's moral support, he said, is based on its history, inasmuch as it has never aimed its arms and means of destruction at countries with problems and conflicts and has not obtained unilateral advantages from its neighbors.

Within the framework of the Mexico-Belize Commission, the government of Miguel de la Madrid has made the commitment of aiding in the construction of a national museum of anthropology and history, a national stadium, and schools as part of a 3-year program from 1984-1986.

FISHERIES SECRETARY DEPARTS FOR PANAMA

FL161850 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1740 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Chetumal, Mexico, 16 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- It was officially reported here today that Fisheries Secretary Pedro Ojeda Paullada and Pedro Joaquin Codwell, governor of Quintana Roo, have left for Panama to study that Central American country's expertise in fishing activities. The Mexican officials, accompanied by their Panamanian counterparts, will visit the shrimp larva laboratory of the Agromarine Enterprise and will tour installations of the Vacamonte port fleet.

IMCE DIRECTOR TOURING MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES

FL170221 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0214 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Foreign Trade Institute Director General Manuel Armendariz Etchegaray is visiting Saudi Arabia to establish commercial contacts as well as to try to sell products and services.

In addition to Saudi Arabia, the IMCE official will visit the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Egypt, and Algeria. Armendariz will establish commercial contacts in these countries. The Arab markets are importers of agricultural and manufactured products, which is why it is believed that Mexico's trade with those countries should increase. During 1983, the Arab country that bought the most Mexican products was Algeria, with a total sale of $15 million.

The IMCE director general, who left Mexico yesterday, will return on 2 April. He heads a delegation composed of businessmen and representatives of 22 enterprises, 8 consortiums, 3 banks, and members of the Business Council for International Affairs.

PEMEX RETAINS CRUDE OIL PRICES, EXPORT LIMITS

FL201758 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0243 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Pemex reported tonight that it has decided to maintain its oil prices for the overseas market at $29 per barrel for light crude (Isthmus) and $25 per barrel of heavy crude (Maya).

After a meeting of the Foreign Petroleum Trade Committee, headed by Pemex Director Mario Ramon Beteta, it was also decided to stay within the Mexican Government's self-imposed limit of exporting 1.5 million barrels per day.

Pemex also said that during 1983, $16,164,800,000 worth of petroleum was exported, mainly to the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, Spain, and France.

The average daily amount of crude oil exported last year was 537,000 barrels. Exports were 44 percent Isthmus crude and 56 percent Maya crude. The percentage of Mexican petroleum exports represented by Maya crude increased because of the demand for it.

Pemex said that the committee's decisions on petroleum export prices, the maintenance of Mexican crude prices, and the export limit are congruent with the overall policy of the Mexican Government.

Announces New Center

FL202050 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0115 GMT 20 Mar 84

[All figures as received]

[Text] Nuevo Pemex, 19 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The parastate agency Pemex today reported that the investment for the first stage of the Nuevo Pemex petrochemical center will amount to 22,290,000,000 pesos (approximately $130,350). In a communique, Pemex noted that this center represents an effort to increase the productivity of oil, improve the quality of products and processes, protect the environment, and reduce technological dependence. It added that the new center, located in Nuevo Pemex, Tabasco State (in the country's southeast), occupies 464 hectares and uses the gas that until a few months ago was burned and wasted because it was impossible to process. Pemex will now process it and make it usable.

Pemex noted that during the exploitation of wells it is obtaining products associated with crude oil and gas in proportions which vary according to the gas deposits and which, because of their various components, must be separated so that they can be used.

At the Nuevo Pemex center, Pemex will obtain natural gas, dry and sweet [seco y dulce], propane, butane, sulphur, ethane, pentane, hexane, and naphtha which will be sent to other centers for further processing. Pemex stressed that the main objective of this center is to process natural gas, which is made up of methane, ethane, propane, butane, and naphthas. In addition, it has hydric acid and carbon dioxide which is the reason it is called bitter gas [gas amargo].

In conclusion, he stressed that Nuevo Pemex has all the necessary auxiliary services to make it operate properly, especially those relating to supply and water treatment, as well as the generation of steam and electricity.

BRIEFS

PRI SECRETARY GENERAL NAMED -- Francisco Luna Kan was elected secretary general of the PRI National Executive Committee during a special meeting of the party's National Council yesterday. He will replace Mario Vargas Saldana, who resigned. [Summary] [Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 6 Mar 84 p 1 PA]

GENERAL NORIEGA VIEWS NICARAGUA, CANAL TREATY

FL210044 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2043 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Panama, 19 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Costa Rica could serve as a safety net [colchon de seguridad] for Nicaragua's stability in the framework of Latin American coexistence, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panamanian National Guard, said here today.

In an exclusive NOTIMEX interview, General Noriega commented that the Nicaraguan leaders should be more mature and appreciate the geopolitical value of Costa Rica.

He said that he hopes that the Nicaraguan process will identify itself with the emotions and ideals that Costa Rica maintains, such as democracy. He described as very positive the decision of the Costa Rican Government to raise the professional level of its policy and keep itself out of the arms race.

At the present time, from the professional and political point of view, Noriega added, the men who make up the National Defense Forces are completely different from those who made up the Panamanian National Police and National Guard.

With regard to the treaty extending Panamanian sovereignty to the Canal Zone, Noriega stated that the treaty is about 70 percent observed, the remaining 30 percent represents the normal handling of new matters and in this, he said, we were acting by trial and error.

The United States has shown good will and good sense in carrying out conscientiously the spirit of the treaty, he concluded.

NEW MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT, JUSTICE TAKES OFFICE

PA200446 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Excerpt] New Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari De Leon was sworn in this afternoon by President Jorge Illueca in the Yellow Room of the Presidential Palace. Vice President Carlos Ozores, minister of the presidency Gustavo Gonzalez, and friends of the new minister witnessed the ceremony.

Rodolfo Chiari De Leon is the grandson of three-time president Rodolfo Chiari and is the nephew of former president Roberto F. Chiari. He is replacing Carlos Ozores, who was appointed vice president of the Republic.

Rodolfo Chiari De Leon is a businessman, farmer, industrialist, and cattleman. He was vice president of the Liberal Party twice.

The new government and justice minister said that he will see that all the political parties abide by the electoral law's rules on the use of the news media:

[Begin Chiari recording] I will see that all parties are treated equally. I understand that the government is going to allow the political parties and candidates to use the state radio station. I do not know how much time will be allocated to each party, but I will try to ensure equity for all. [end recording]

NICARAGUAN PARTY LEADER DISCUSSES ELECTIONS

PA161836 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Interview with Erick Ramirez, first vice president of the Nicaraguan Social Christian Party -- recorded]

[Text] [Ramirez] We are in Panama to seek the support of the international democratic community as well as the solidarity of our brother party, the Christian Democratic Party. We also want to deliver to the Panamanian Foreign Ministry a letter that the party released last month regarding events in Nicaragua.

The FSLN government has said that elections will be held in Nicaragua in November 1984. The current domestic situation that we face, however, is one of such political repression, absence of freedom, and human rights violations that the announced elections are merely a farce to legitimize the FSLN for another 6 years.

By virtue of an emergency law, there is presently no freedom of organization, movement, or political campaigning in Nicaragua. Because of that same law there is no freedom of expression; 22 independent radio newscasts have been suspended; and the FSLN controls all state news media.

As a result, we of the democratic political parties are in a very difficult situation and are forced to function in an adverse environment. The FSLN, which currently holds power in Nicaragua, is the only body able to conduct political activities. In addition, the FSLN utilizes paramilitary groups -- the so-called mobs -- to exert all types of pressure on democratic groups. This has elicited such fear and tension among the people that our parties' activities are particularly difficult.

In order for the Nicaraguan opposition to participate in the announced electoral process, we have demanded that the emergency law currently in force be eliminated immediately; that the national Army, which is subject to the FSLN by virtue of Nicaraguan law, be separated from the party; and that all political parties, workers' federations, and civic organizations be given the opportunity to participate in the announced electoral process on equal terms.

We believe that if these conditions are not fulfilled, only an electoral farce will take place in Nicaragua in November. For this reason, we have asked the Contadora Group countries to realize that what will take place in Nicaragua is anything but a clear electoral process. We have delivered a message to the Panamanian Foreign Ministry stressing this. We hope that the Panamanian Government has a clear picture of what is happening in Nicaragua.

[Unidentified reporter] Were you received by the Panamanian foreign minister?

[Ramirez] No, but we delivered our message at the Foreign Ministry.

COSTA RICA

GUTIERREZ DISCUSSES PACE OF CONTADORA PROCESS

PA201940 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 5 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Dr Carlos J. Gutierrez said that in the next 2 months the Contadora Group will have only the foundation for a peace agreement in Central America. Gutierrez was not so optimistic as to say that there would be peace in 2 months. He indicated that "Contadora Group committees are working very well, and concerning the Costa Rican delegates, I am very pleased." Gutierrez explained that Costa Rican delegates have been entrusted by the Contadora Group with special assignments in the drafting of the future peace agreement. The foreign minister, who is scheduled to leave for Washington next Sunday to attend the OAS meeting, said that "the calendar set up by the Contadora Group plans to have the general framework for a peace agreement by next May." He noted that "the Central American foreign ministers are scheduled to meet with the Contadora Group on 30 April."

EL SALVADOR

D'AUBUISSON HITS FOREIGN PRESS FOR WAR COVERAGE

PA200114 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 19 Mar 84 pp 2, 40

[Text] "The nationalists have the obligation to defend our country from the communist hordes, and foreign correspondents have the obligation to tell the public what is really happening in El Salvador. It is hoped that they will inform the world about what happened today in Flor Blanca Stadium in San Salvador." This was the comment of Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, presidential candidate for the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, on opening a meeting yesterday attended by more than 60 [as published] persons, who arrived at Flor Blanca Stadium from several parts of the country.

When Maj D'Aubuisson referred to the misinformation spread by correspondents regarding the true situation in our country, he said: "It is time for you foreign correspondents to report the truth. There is no civil war here, as they have attempted to portray it. Here the glorious Armed Forces are defending the people from communist aggression. And I am glad that you have come to this meeting, and I hope you will report it in this manner to the public. Do not continue discrediting our fatherland. Tell the truth," he reiterated. The massive crowd at Flor Blanca Stadium supported the ARENA presidential candidate's suggestion, applauding and singing the party's hymn.

MILITARY ACTIVITY: SABOTAGE, CLASHES REPORTED

Power Loss Follows Explosion

PA200038 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] San Vicente -- At approximately 2300 last night, a strong explosion was heard west of here, presumably in San Cayetano Istepeque jurisdiction and there was an immediate power outage. Service has not yet been restored. We were unable to learn the circumstances or the exact areas affected.

According to private sources, the power outage was apparently caused by the sabotage of a powerline or tower, as has occurred previously when there was sabotage near San Felipe, Tecoluca jurisdiction, Ingenio (Quihuaza), San Cayetano Istepeque, San Lorenzo and San Esteban Catarinas.

All was calm in the city this morning. Water service is normal, but electrical service is inoperable. It was also observed that troops are concentrated here. Several contingents were out in the city this morning, which is why it is believed that there is a temporary break in antiguerrilla activities.

FMLN: Army Offensive Failed

PA200306 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Excerpts] We inform our people of the failure of the operation that the dictatorship has launched in the eastern part of the country, which was designed to push FMLN units toward the Honduran border to try to annihilate them with the help of Honduran Army troops concentrated there. To execute this plan, which was designed by the North Americans, the U.S. Air Force staged 137 spy flights during the past few weeks over territory that we control. Aircraft equipped with radar and infrared systems took off from Honduran airbases and from the U.S. Southern Command. The operation was led by Domingo Monterrosa and was supported by thousands of soldiers from the Atlacatl, National, Morazan, Lenca, Ponce, and Cuscatlan Battalions, and a battalion of sappers from La Union.

Since this operation began, the FMLN has confronted the enemy attacks, striking the dictatorship's forces and attacking the Cuscatlan Battalion near Carolina at Mirazapa Hill, which was Domingo Monterrosa's location.

As a result of our counteroffensive actions, we inflicted more than 100 casualties, including dead and wounded, on the dictatorship and caused heavy damage to a U.S.-made heli pter in the northern part of San Miguel Department, an area which has become a cementery for U.S. helicopters. In short, this has been another disastrous operation led by Domingo Monterrosa and his U.S. advisers.

Rebels Clash With Cavalry

PA202119 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Our companeros at the Southeastern Front report that on 17 March at 0400 our revolutionary forces took control of the Coastal Highway at the San Francisco Javier turnoff. During this action, our companeros met with transport workers. At 0700, a clash took place between our forces and members of the regime's cavalry force on the road that leads from Usulutan to Tierra Blanca. At 1000 our forces withdrew with no difficulty after inflicting an unspecified number of injuries on the regime's cavalry forces. This operation was directed by (Commander Jeronimo). The report is signed by (Companero Roberto).

FMLN Clashes With Belloso

PA202133 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Reports from the San Agustin-Tres Calles sector indicate that FMLN forces clashed with troops from the Gringo Belloso Battalion, causing them 15 casualties, both dead and wounded.

Three M-16 rifles and two PRC-77 military communications radios were recovered. These are actions carried out by our Salvadoran people in response to the electoral farce financed, planned, and guarded by the United States, by the imperialist government of Ronald Reagan.

Our people are showing the world and imperialism that there will be no truce until the injustices that are causing the struggle of an entire people cease.

GUATEMALA

ARMY GIVES 'CONDITIONAL YES' ON 'GRENADIER I'

PA201920 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1014 GMT 20 Mar 84

[By Juan Antonio de Lucas]

[Text] Guatemala City, 20 Mar (EFE) -- Guatemala is prepared to send troops to the huge, international antiguerrilla maneuvers scheduled to begin in May in Honduras under U.S. auspices. Colonel Edgar Djalma Dominguez, Guatemalan Army spokesman, told EFE that his country "has given a conditional yes to definite participation in the 'Grenadier I' maneuvers."

U.S., Honduran, and Salvadoran Army forces will begin these maneuvers in western Honduras in late May or early June at the latest. Some 2,000 U.S. soldiers, approximately 2,300 Honduran troops, and an as yet undetermined number of Salvadoran and Guatemalan soldiers will converge on this area, bordering on both Guatemala and El Salvador.

Of the four countries, Guatemala was the only one that had not confirmed that it would participate in the "Grenadier I" exercises, which will focus on training the participating forces in counterinsurgency operations.

Col Djalma admitted for the first time yesterday that Guatemala has received an invitation from Honduras to participate in the maneuvers.

Guatemala's position on the subject, as expressed by General Oscar Mejia Victores, the head of state, had been that no invitation had been received.

The military spokesman said that Guatemala's participation will depend, in the final analysis, on the status "of our domestic struggle against the guerrillas when the exercises are ready to begin." After saying that Guatemala is currently experiencing an escalation in guerrilla violence, Djalma asserted that "there is a possibility that we may not be able to take troops from the antiguerrilla struggle for participation in the maneuvers." According to official figures, 510 guerrillas, 151 Army troops, and 60 civilians died in clashes between the Army and the guerrillas in 1983.

"Guatemala realizes the need for maneuvers of this sort because it is necessary to act jointly in Central America against the communist aggressor," the military officer said. Thus, the decision on Guatemala's participation in "Grenadier I" will not be made until the last minute. "We may not decide whether we will participate until 2 weeks before the exercises begin, because these are antiguerrilla maneuvers and we have 23 years of experience in this field," Djalma said in conclusion.

HONDURAS

PROTEST TO NICARAGUA OVER MOVING BORDER MARKERS

PA201740 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] The Honduran Government, acting through the Foreign Secretariat, on 15 March presented a formal protest to the Nicaraguan Government over the change in the positions of border markers between El Divisadero and El Higo, south of El Espino in Chuluteca department. The note from the Honduran Foreign Secretariat cited reliable sources as indicating that unidentified persons from Nicaragua entered Honduras in December 1983 and moved several markers on the common border.

According to international law, border markers are of a permanent nature and may not be altered unilaterally. For this reason, the Honduran Government has presented a vigorous, formal protest to the Nicaraguan Government in the hope of preventing new disagreements between the two nations, given that the border markers were placed by the two nations by common consent, as expressed in minute No 68 of 12 April 1964.

Honduras is proposing that a technical commission, consisting of engineers from both nations, be assigned to visit the affected area and confirm the authenticity of these reports as soon as possible. The border markers could then be returned to their proper places in the shortest possible time.

NATIONAL PARTY MEMBERS ENDORSE RIFT DECLARATION

PA201950 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Several important members of the National Party of Honduras yesterday endorsed a document that had been presented last week to the National Electoral Tribunal by the Unity and Change Movement declaring the existence of an internal conflict in the party. In addition, the movement asked the National Electoral Tribunal to declare on the legality of the central committee, which was elected at a special convention in July 1983. This committee had been presided over by Juan Pablo Urrutia. The document was originally signed and presented on 13 March.

NICARAGUA

SOVIET OIL TANKER HITS MINE IN PUERTO SANDINO

PA210011 Paris AFP in Spanish 2344 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 20 Mar (AFP) -- A Soviet oil tanker today collided with a mine in Puerto Sandino, the country's principal Pacific port, 70 km west of Managua, the official international press center has reported. Thus far details of the incident or whether any of the ship's crew were injured are not known. Puerto Sandino, which was the target of two sabotage actions in 1983, is the only point for unloading fuel in Nicaragua.

In Puerto Corinto two other ships have been damaged in the past month after colliding with mines. One of them was a Panamanian-flag vessel and the other was a Dutch-flag ship. Two fishing boats also sank in El Bluff, a principal Atlantic Port, for the same reason.

The anti-Sandinist Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), which is fighting the Nicaraguan Government, announced last February that it had mined these ports as part of its military strategy.

Sailors Reportedly Injured

PA210421 Paris AFP in English 0411 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, March 21 (AFP) -- Several Soviet sailors were injured Tuesday when their oil tanker hit a mine in Nicaragua's Pacific Coast Port of Sandino, the Nicaraguan Government radio reported. It gave no details of the number hurt or their injuries, but said the tanker was able to dock after being rocked by the explosion.

The tanker was the fifth vessel damaged by mines in Nicaraguan waters during the past month. In February, the Costa Rican-based Nicaraguan guerrilla movement, the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (ARDE), announced that it had mined Sandino and Nicaragua's biggest port at Corinto, further north on the Pacific coast, as well as the port of El Bluff on the Caribbean coast. ARDE, which is led by a former member of the Nicaraguan Junta, Eden Pastora, warned all foreign shipping to stay away from the ports. After Tuesday's incident, the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry urgently asked the international press corps here to visit Sandino, which receives most of Nicaragua's oil imports.

TORRES CITES U.S. TROOPS, SHIPS AS WAR THREAT

PA200120 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Brigade Commander Hugo Torres Jimenez, head of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] political section, has said that there is a threat of war against Nicaragua and El Salvador as long as the U.S. Army 82d Airborne Division is in Honduras and U.S. warships patrol the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Nicaragua. At a meeting last Saturday with members of the National Employees Union and the EPS Omar Torrijos Artillery Brigade, Commander Torres said that they should prepare for a war that could be imposed on them by imperialism, but that they should also continue their production tasks. Commander Torres criticized the newspaper LA PRENSA, whose editorials and news stroies are aimed at destabilizing the revolution. He also criticized the paper's approval of the attacks on our country.

ORTEGA, D'ESCOTO DEPART FOR MEXICAN VISIT

PA201351 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, and Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman are leaving today for Mexico, where they will meet with Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid and Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor.

The serious problems affecting the Central America area and particularly Nicaragua, due to the military aggression, as well as aspects of the multifaceted cooperation between Mexico and Nicaragua, will be discussed during the meeting. During his stay in this sister republic, Commander Ortega will be a guest of Puebla Governor Guillermo Jimenez at a reception offered by the University Council of the Autonomous University of Puebla [Universidad Autonoma de Puebla] at which the rector [passage indistinct].

Ortega Speaks at Airport

PA210028 Paris AFP in Spanish 2207 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 20 Mar (AFP) -- Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, declared here today that Central America is experiencing a "delicate and critical situation that might lead to a U.S. invasion of El Salvador and Nicaragua." The Nicaraguan junta leader today left for Mexico City, where he will meet with President Miguel de la Madrid tomorrow to discuss developments in the region. "We are facing a clear interventionist threat. This is an extremely critical time, in view of the U.S. aggressive attitude and military presence in Central America," he noted.

The Sandinist leader called the meeting that he will hold with De La Madrid "of great importance," indicating that Mexico has been one of the principal promoters of regional peace through the Contadora Group. Ortega, who a week ago urgently appealed to the governments of the world to supply Nicaragua with technical and military means for its defense, said that he will also discuss economic cooperation with De La Madrid.

He termed "absurd" recent statements by President Reagan that an East-West conflict is taking place in Central America. "The only problem we Central Americans are facing is the United States, whose government is intent on military solutions," Ortega stated.

The coordinator of the Junta accused Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica of approving the presence of U.S. troops in Honduras and a U.S. war fleet in Honduran territorial waters, a presence which "sets the bases for an aggression." "Paz Barnica speaks of dissuasion, but we already know what this word means, which was used in Lebanon, where U.S. ships fired on the cities," Ortega said.

The Sandinist leader said that the elections in November for a president and for constituent assembly members will be held despite the serious military situation faced by Nicaragua. He also criticized a statement made by German Social Christian Deputy Werner Marx, who last week questioned the electoral process after a visit of several days to Nicaragua. "It would be interesting to know if Mr Marx in the past criticized the elections that the Somozist dictatorship organized," Ortega remarked.

Ortega hailed the release of Uruguayan opposition leader Liber Seregni, commenting that "this has been a triumph of international solidarity and of the process of democratization in Latin America, of which Nicaragua is a vanguard in Central America."

PARTY OFFICIALS INTERVIEWED ON ELECTORAL LAW

PA201921 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Juan Carlos Morales, delegate of the Confederation of Chambers of Commerce of Nicaragua at the State Council, has said the electoral law that has been approved was drafted without the participation of the opposition parties and was passed by government imposition. Morales, who was reelected to the State Council for a third term, complained that the Sandinist Front is using television 24 hours a day. The following is a recorded interview with Morales:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What is your impression of the electoral law?

[Morales] I understand that the law was approved without the participation of the democratic opposition groups. In other words, it was passed by government imposition. I insist that it should not have been passed so hastily, without the conscientious participation of all Nicaraguan organizations represented at the State Council. Nevertheless, the law was approved almost unilaterally, and this should not have been so. This law is fundamental for the democratic development of the country.

[Reporter] Do you believe that the law is broad and flexible enough to allow the participation of at least 9 or 10 parties?

[Morales] The little I know of the law tells me that it is highly restrictive. It does not provide broad participation for the opposition parties. For instance, in the case of television publicity, the FSLN makes use of this medium 24 hours a day, in addition to radio and press, while the opposition is hardly given 15 minutes. This is absurd. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Agustin Jarquin, president of the Social Christian Party, yesterday told Radio Sandino that although the electoral law that has been approved must regulate the political parties, it should be more democratic. Jarquin noted that currently, the Sandinist Defense Committees [CDS] exert pressure on the common citizen. Besides, he said, there is the press censorship, which demoralizes the people. The following is a recorded interview with Jarquin.

[Begin Jarquin recording] There is participation by the parties in the administration of the electoral law as advisers to the Supreme Electoral Council. However, the law must be more democratic. For instance, conditions for a free democratic process do not exist. Unfortunately, the common citizen continues to be restricted by the CDS. Press censorship, which the government had promised to lift, still prevails, and the propaganda time, which was established by the electoral law on an equal basis for all parties, is not being properly distributed. The government party controls most of the television and radio time.

If the conditions are not provided to create the proper climate in the country, then the government party will be responsible for our failure to find the politically peaceful solution that the Nicaraguan people expect. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Luis Sanchez Sancho, the secretary general of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party [PSN], said that the electoral law weakens the position of the traditional parties who claim to have no guarantees, when in fact, all political parties have equal opportunities. The following is a recorded interview with Sanchez.

[Begin recording] [Sanchez] The new laws approved by the State Council, particularly the electoral law, as well as the definite integration of the National Assembly of Political Parties [ANPP] and of the National Council of Political Parties [CNPP], are fundamental to the revolutionary process of our country. We perceive the Sandinist people's revolution in three basic aspects: first, to comply with the goals of the nation's economic reconstruction and to advance in the search for our external economic independence; second, the patriotic defense tasks, since we will continue to be exposed, who knows for how long, to the aggressions of imperialism and the counterrevolution, maintained and financed by the U.S. Government; and third, the political tasks, which intermingle with the economic and patriotic defense chores in the search for the consolidation of the revolutionary process and the democratization of the country through elections.

[Unidentified reporter] What are the political prospects for the participation of 9 or 10 parties, when in the past, fewer than a handful participated?

[Sanchez] This is one of the interesting aspects of the Nicaraguan process. Some sectors claim that the Sandinist revolution is based, among other things, on a true political, ideologic pluralism, as established by laws of the state. The new laws, including the electoral law, actually confirm such pluralism. For the first time we are going to hold free elections, and all parties, independent of their size and political ideology, will have an equal opportunity to participate. [end recording]

PARTIES' ASSEMBLY APPOINTS DELEGATES TO CNPP

PA200348 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 15 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] In its first session yesterday, the National Assembly of Political Parties [ANPP] appointed its delegates to the National Council of Political Parties (CNPP), the main institution for ensuring that the political parties comply with the rules set forth in the law currently being debated by congress.

Hugo Mejia, delegate of the Government Junta at the ANPP, announced the appointment of Luis Medina of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party (PSN), Duilio Baltodano of the Social Christian Party (PSC), Buenaventura Selva of the PLI [Independent Liberal Party], and Gioconda Belli, FSLN representative.

Mejia noted that the appointments of three delegates to represent the State Council and one delegate to represent the Government Junta are still pending.

The CNPP also has the authority to approve the creation of new political parties. Therefore, as soon as its members are installed, recently created political groups such as the Social Democratic Party (PSD), the People's Action Movement (MAP), and the PPSC [Authentic Popular Social Christian Party] will be able to file their documents requesting legal status before this institution.

Gioconda Belli said that the CNPP "shows the unitary spirit of the electoral process," based on the broad participation of all parties in determining the rules for the 4 November elections.

HUMBERTO ORTEGA NOTES ATTACK BY 'PIRANHA' BOATS

PA202003 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1917 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 20 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Humberto Ortega, the Nicaraguan Armed Forces chief, has reported that "Piranha" boats today attacked Cosiguina Point on Nicaragua's Pacific coast. The foremost military officer noted that initial reports on the "counterrevolutionary" attack indicate that it did not result in casualties or damage. "It was a reckless and indiscriminate attack," Ortega said. The Army commander feels that the "Piranha" boats attacked Cosiguina Point in order to attract Sandinist troops to the area and then ambush them.

Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, recalled before leaving for Mexico at noon that the "Piranha" boats that attack Nicaragua "are based in Honduras."

SANDINIST, CONTRA FORCES CLASH IN NORTH

FDN Claims Casualties

PA200249 Paris AFP in Spanish 0140 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 19 Mar (AFP) -- The anti-Sandinist Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) today said in this capital city that it has launched a general "offensive in central and northern Nicaragua," during which it has inflicted more than 300 casualties on the government troops and shot down 4 helicopter gunships belonging to the Sandinist Air Force.

The FDN said that the guerrilla operations have increased in the Departments of Zelaya, Chinandega, and Madriz, as well as in Jinotega and Matagalpa -- departments that border on Honduras -- where, according to a war bulletin, "the insurgent commandos control part of the territory."

The information added that the four helicopters were downed while they were supporting a Sandinist People's Army (EPS) battalion in Dipina and other sectors of Zelaya Department where heavy clashes were being waged. According to the FDN bulletin, the Sandinist casualties increased to 135 during those clashes. The bulletin further stated that 110 Sandinist soldiers were killed or wounded in clashes in Cuicuiwita and Lucpu in Matagalpa and central Zelaya Departments.

The bulletin added that forces of the Monimbo Regional Commando fought all day Friday, 16 March in the Jatillo valleys, Usilluca, and El Paraisito, some 8 km from Somoto, capital city of Madriz Department, in the northern area of the country, inflicting "many casualties among the Sandinists." The bulletin added that the Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Task Force made an EPS battalion withdraw "following 5 hours of heavy fighting" in the area of Bayucun, 16 km northeast of Ocotal, capital city of Nueva Segovia Department.

The FDN also reported that "troops of the Rafael Carrera Regional Commando are waging heavy battles in Jinotega Department, adding that the government troops suffered 72 casualties during the fighting reported in Quininowas, Jinotega Department, and Terrero Grande, Nueva Segovia Department. [quotation marks as received]

The FDN also reported that on Tuesday, 13 March, special commandos attacked the Sandinist base in Villanueva, Chinandega Department, that was being defended by 1,500 men, and that "heavy damage to the installations" was inflicted. The FDN said that the base was equipped with several armored vehicles and heavy artillery and that "the troops abandoned the base and fled to the town of Villanueva," 2 km from the military base.

27 Contras Said Killed

PA201902 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Some 27 counterrevolutionaries have been killed by the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] and the People's Militias in various armed clashes. Fifteen were killed in Ciudad Antigua, nine in Pueblo Nuevo, and three at San Ramon Hill. Following their criminal attacks on these communities, the counterrevolutionaries fled to Honduras, chased by the EPS and the people's militias. Last Sunday, the same group of criminals kidnapped nine peasants from the San Jose cooperatives after attacking the community of San Jose, east of Pueblo Nuevo.

ANGOLAN DELEGATION COMPLETES VISIT, DEPARTS

Castro Hosts Farewell Banquet

FL201420 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro last night hosted a farewell banquet for Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party and of the People's Republic of Angola, and for other members of the delegation accompanying him on his visit to Cuba.

Army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of the party and FAR minister; Politburo members and alternate members; Secretariat members; Councils of State and Ministers vice presidents; FAR chiefs and officers; and other guests attended the banquet.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

FL202005 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate Politburo member and member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee, has met with Alfonso Van Dunen Mbinda, secretary of the Central Committee of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party [MPLA], who was a member of the delegation headed by Angola's President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

At the meeting, which was held in a climate of mutual understanding and friendship, the two leaders discussed various aspects of bilateral relations between their two parties. Later, Montane Oropesa and Mbinda signed the cooperation agreement which Cuba's Communist Party and Angola's MPLA have renewed.

Pedro Joao (Bengui), chief of the Latin American section of the MPLA's foreign affairs ministry, and Cuban officials also attended the meeting.

Dos Santos Departs

FL201519 [Editorial Report] Havana Television Service in Spanish at 1330 GMT on 20 March began a live broadcast of the departure of Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos from Havana's Jose Marti International Airport.

Cuban television announcer Antonio Pera interrupted programming to announce the departure ceremony taking place for President Dos Santos.

An establishing shot showed Cuban President Fidel Castro and Angolan President Dos Santos saluting the flags of both countries while the national anthems of Cuba and Angola were played in the background.

After the playing of the national anthems, Lieutenant Colonel Guerrero Ramos, chief of the honor guard, marched toward Castro and Dos Santos and announced to Dos Santos that the honor guard was ready to be reviewed. The camera followed the two heads of government as they reviewed the honor guard, then focused on a cordoned off area where a crowd was waving flags. Meanwhile, the announcer said that President Dos Santos had ended his "friendly working visit" which began at midday on Saturday.

After waving to the crowd, Dos Santos shook hands with representatives of the diplomatic corps and members of the Politburo and Central Committee, which included Ramiro Valdes Menendez, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Juan Almeida Bosque, Armando Hart Davalos, Pedro Miret Prieto, Jesus Montane Oropesa, and Jose Ramon Fernandez.

After shaking hands with Fidel Castro, Dos Santos boarded the IL-62 Aeroflot airliner at 1350 GMT, while the announcer said that the two countries will continue their "eternal friendship."

Coverage ended immediately following the departure of the airplane at 1358 GMT.

COMPARISON OF CUBA-ANGOLA JOINT DECLARATION

Havana Domestic Service in Spanish at 1145 GMT on 20 March broadcast the "text" of the Cuba-Angola joint declaration issued at the conclusion of the talks between Cuban President Fidel Castro and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

The Havana Domestic version has been compared with the Havana International version published in the 20 March Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages Q 2-4, revealing the following variations:

Page Q 3, last paragraph, line four reads in the Havana Domestic version...heroism of the 150,000 Cubans who have... (noting change in figure)

Page Q 4, paragraph two, line one reads in the Havana Domestic version...Issued in the city... (noting word "simultaneously" omitted) FIRM POSITION IN STATEMENT WITH ANGOLA PRAISEI

FIRM POSITION IN STATEMENT WITH ANGOLA PRAISED

FL202217 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Commentary by Ezequiel Perez Martin: "Internationalism Goes Hand in Hand With Justice"]

[Text] A joint statement between the Governments of the Republic of Cuba and the People's Republic of Angola has just been signed in our fatherland. This is tantamount to writing a new page in the history of proletarian internationalism. Marti's statement that "Fatherland is Humankind" resounds with a louder echo in the African jungle.

The heroic resistance of the Angolan people has forced their enemy to accept negotiations on new bases and these talks are now under way with South Africa and the United States.

The inability to overcome the Angolan patriots and Cuba's military cooperation with the land of Agostinho Neto have resulted in the Cuban-Angolan decision to not withdraw our troops until there is no longer any danger to the sovereignty of Angola and until peace and independence for the nations of that region are guaranteed.

In the recent statement signed by Cuba and Angola it is stressed that the Cuban military contingent will not be withdrawn from Angola until the following requisites are fulfilled:

1. The unilateral withdrawal of the racist South African troops from Angolan territory;

2. The strict application of Resolution 435-78 of the UN Security Council on the independence of Namibia;

3. An end to any act of direct aggression against Angola, as well as any aid to the counterrevolutionaries who are trying to overthrow Jose Eduardo dos Santos' popular government.

This firm position is the greatest homage to the more than 150,000 Cuban men and women who have served in Angola. It is also a recognition of the heroism of the Angolan people and of a duty toward proletarian internationalism.

GRANMA VIEWS ANGOLA-S. AFRICA WITHDRAWAL TALKS

WA200772 Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 4 Mar 84 p 5

["South Africa Forced To Hold Talks With Angola on Troops Withdrawal From Southern Angola and Namibian Independence;" translation of item published on p 8 of the 22 February Spanish-language edition of GRANMA]

[Text] Luanda (PL) -- In view of world condemnation, repeated UN Security Council resolutions, and the military strengthening of the People's Republic of Angola, which is firmly supported by Cuba and the Soviet Union (as was shown at the recent tripartite meeting in Moscow), the racists in Pretoria and their allies in Washington have been forced to start talks on a negotiated solution to the withdrawal of South African forces from southern Angola and to Namibia's independence.

Officials of the racist regime have acknowledged the economic burden of their military occupation of Namibia and of fighting against the liberation struggle with SWAPO, the only legitimate representative of the Namibian people.

The local media have been reporting on the talks in Lusaka between official delegations from Luanda and Pretoria.

The official organ of the Angolan government, JORNAL DE ANGOLA, added another element which would explain the current position of the Reagan administration: "Most observers of the situation in Namibia agree that the outlook for a South African opening could be related to the election campaign in the United States."

According to the ANGOP news agency, the Luanda talks were based on the four conditions presented last year by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos: withdrawal of the forces occupying Angolan territory, an end to support for the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] counterrevolutionary organization, elimination of linkage between Namibian independence and the presence in Angola of Cuban internationalist forces, and implementation of UN Resolution No 435 on Namibia's decolonization.

After increasing its attacks on countries in the region, the fact that South Africa has sat down to talks shows above all that its policy of using force has failed.

JORNAL DE ANGOLA said that "the apartheid regime's real intentions are not clear since it wants to appear to be making concessions on alien soil from which it must withdraw unconditionally."

MALMIERCA, DELEGATION ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO GHANA

For Accra coverage of Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca's official 5-day visit to Ghana, including his meeting on arrival with Ghana's secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Assamoah, see the West Africa section of the 20 March Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

MOZAMBIQUE DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR OFFICIAL TALKS

FL200225 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] The Honorable Rui Lousa, Mozambican minister of posts and telecommunications, is heading a delegation which arrived this morning in Havana for official talks. Accompanying him are Joaquin Jose Tenreiro de Almeida, state banking secretary, and Marcelo Andrade, national director of human resources of the Ministry of Foreign Trade.

Joaquin Benavides, minister president of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security, and Manuel Torres, vice president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation [CECE], met the Mozambique delegation at the airport.

CARLOS ZAMORA ACCREDITED AMBASSADOR TO ECUADOR

FL202112 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1918 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Ecuador and Cuba today normalized their diplomatic relations by accrediting in Quito the new Cuban ambassador, Carlos Zamora. After the ceremony, Zamora stated to the press that the normalization of relations responds to the mutual interests of the two countries. He stressed Cuban support for the efforts of Ecuador to achieve an independent Latin American position on the solution of economic problems, as was discussed at the Quito conference in January.

SOTO DECORATES SOVIET MINISTER BORIS BAKIN

FL202340 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Lionel Soto, member of the Central Committee Secretariat of the Cuban Communist Party and ambassador to the USSR, decorated Boris V. Bakin, minister of Installation and Special Construction Work of the USSR, with the Armando Mestre Order today.

The resolution issued by the Cuban Construction Ministry and the National Construction Wrokers Union granting the decoration noted that Bakin has for many years made a noteworthy contribution to the completion of socioeconomic projects in Cuba.

It was noted that the Havana fishing port, [word indistinct] factory of Santiago de Cuba, the Jose Marti Metallurgic Plant, the KTP Sugar Combine Factory, and several textile factories have been completed or are being built with USSR assistance.

The ceremony was held at the Cuban Embassy in the Soviet Union and was attended by Basic Industry Minister Marcos Portal.

REBELS, LEADERS CITED ON SALVADORAN ELECTIONS

No Solution to Conflict

FL210045 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Bogota -- Salvadoran Revolutionary leader Jorge Villacorta has reiterated that the elections to be held in his country on Sunday are no solution to the conflict of El Salvador and the Central American region. He also reiterated the FMLN-FDR willingness to establish immediate mechanisms for a dialogue in order to find a lasting peace.

In a statement from San Jose, Costa Rica, to the Colombian station RCN, Villacorta recalled the FMLN-FDR proposal to establish a provisional government with ample participation to create the minimum conditions for peace and subsequently issue a call for a true electoral process.

Military Actions To Increase

PA200526 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Radio Venceremos, voice of the FMLN, has reported that the attack last Saturday on the Army barracks in San Miguel marked the start of the organization's new military offensive, called "No to the Electoral Farce, Yes to the Popular War."

The guerrilla forces fired more than forty 81-mm mortar rounds on the headquarters of the 3d Infantry Brigade. The rebel attack efficiently countered the deployment of some 5,000 soldiers to the zone, whose main goal according to Army spokesmen was to evict the guerrilla forces from their positions throughout the region.

Guerrilla Commander Joaquin Villalobos has asserted that the FMLN will increase its military actions even more. He said that there will be no respite, and that the dictatorship's electoral farce of 25 March has already been rejected by the people.

Meanwhile, Salvadoran Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosas Chavez has denounced in the capital the violence that has been unleashed by paramiliatry groups that are led by the official candidates in the upcoming elections. He said that between 9 and 15 March more than 80 persons were killed by these groups.

Also, Roberto D'Aubuisson, an extreme right political leader and presidential candidate for the Nationalist Republican Alliance, has reasserted that if he wins the elections he will never negotiate or meet with the guerrilla forces.

Meanwhile, in Montreal, FDR President Guillermo Manuel Ungo has said the rebels will not prevent the Salvadoran citizens from voting, since they must do it to protect their lives because their identity cards must be stamped accordingly.

SALVADORAN REBELS, ARMY CLASH IN NEW OFFENSIVE

FL201751 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] The current Salvadoran guerrilla campaign called "No to the Election Farce, Yes to the Popular War" has so far inflicted 90 casualties on the Salvadoran troops. The main fighting took place in Morazan, San Miguel, and La Union Provinces, all of them bordering Honduras, where Honduran and U.S. troops have been carrying out maneuvers under the pretext of protecting Salvadoran soldiers.

The guerrillas disbanded a large military antiguerrilla operation which was taking place in Usulutan Province, an important guerrilla bulwark. The military is trying to check the guerrilla's advance prior to the upcoming elections on 25 March.

Government forces have been pursued by guerrilla forces, which have said that the elections are not a direct objective, but that there will be no respite, and that (?fighting) will continue before and after the elections take place.

The guerrillas still control a section of the Pan American Highway in Usulatan Province which leads to Villa del Triunfo. Heavy fighting in this area is hindering traffic going toward eastern or western El Salvador.

U.S. SAID SENDING CHEMICAL WEAPONS TO EL SALVADOR

PA180044 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Mexican scientist (Camilo Valki Cachi) has reported that the United States is continuing to send chemical and bacteriological weapons to El Salvador, as it previously did in Vietnam. (Valki Cachi), who is a professor at the Mexican University of Guerrero, said that the United States is committed to the extermination of the Salvadoran people.

GUATEMALAN OFFICER VOICES INTEREST IN MANEUVERS

PA202112 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Guatemalan Colonel Edgar Djalma Dominguez has reported that his country's Army is interested in and willing to take part in upcoming joint maneuvers with troops from other Central American countries.

The Army spokesman said that the Guatemalan Army could take part in the "Grenadier I" exercises that will soon be carried out in Honduras with the participation of Honduran, Salvadoran, and U.S. troops. However, he said: It all depends on the Guatemalan internal situation and on the success of the Army in its fight against the guerrillas. Commenting on this, Col Djalma said that it might not be possible to divert forces from the counterinsurgency struggle to take part in war games.

Some 2,000 U.S. soldiers, 2,300 Honduran soldiers, and an undetermined number of Salvadoran troops will take part in the "Grenadier I" maneuvers.

2D PHASE BEGINS IN JOINT U.S.-HONDURAN EXERCISE

FL200214 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] U.S. and Honduran troops that today began the second phase of the provocative joint military exercise near Tegucigalpa have been placed on maximum alert. About 600 U.S. troops made a parachute jump this morning as part of the maneuvers that will last until 29 March. The U.S. forces belong to the 3rd Battalion of the 7th Group of the special airborne troops based at Ft Gullick, Panama.

More than 2,000 Honduran soldiers are participating in the exercises. The Honduran Government is once again demonstrating its mission as a satellite of the hegemonic plans of Washington. The present exercises, together with those that have already been completed, are part of the preparations for aggression against the peoples of Central America.

It is a fact that Nicaragua is the target of daily attacks by U.S. military power. Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra today denounced the fact that his country is suffering the direct overt aggression of the United States. The coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction has reaffirmed that the daily attacks on Nicaraguan territory are carried out by the counterrevolutionary bands directed by Ronald Reagan's administration.

Reveals Expanded U.S. 'Occupation'

FL201622 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] The parachute drop of an undetermined number of U.S. troops near Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital, has indicated to specialists that U.S. occupation of that Central American country has been expanded.

Troops from the U.S. Southern Command, based in Fort Gulick in the so-called Panama Canal Zone, have begun limited military maneuvers. It was stated that the aim of the maneuvers was to test the units' deployment capability in real situations.

The secrecy of the operation was emphasized by the specialists, who noted that while the U.S. Defense Department made reference to 40 paratroopers, Honduran sources stated that there were 600. A similar contradiction was reported regarding the Honduran soldiers, because while the Pentagon mentioned 150, Central American sources stated that there were 2,000.

HONDURAN INSTITUTE RAPS U.S. ACTIONS IN C.A.

PA192238 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] The Honduran Socioeconomic Research Institute [Instituto de Investigaciones Socioeconomicas de Honduras] has said that U.S. Central American allies are trying to destabilize Nicaragua, which is currently experiencing direct U.S. attacks on its borders with the tragic result of more victims being claimed each day.

The group's statement adds that in view of this situation, the United States has launched a campaign of misinformation and has instituted an information blockade against Nicaragua so that the rest of the world will never be fully informed of actual events there.

As a result of [words indistinct], the Honduran Socioeconomic Research Institute said that the Tegucigalpa regime's Armed Forces national security project totally follows U.S. interests. The institute pointed out that the project will be carried out simultaneously with internal counterinsurgency efforts, and that military preparations are being made for an attack on Nicaragua and the Salvadoran revolutionary movement.

NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA CITED ON 'U.S. INTERVENTION'

PA192025 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Weekly feature on the Nonaligned Movement]

[Excerpt] The danger of a direct U.S. intervention in Central America grew stronger last week when, according to U.S. State Department reports, 2,000 Yankee soldiers were sent to the Honduras-El Salvador border.

This military contingent, which belongs to the 82d Airborne Division of the U.S. Army, will be added to the more than 1,700 Yankee soldiers and advisers currently in those countries, where Washington also maintains training centers, air bases, and powerful war arsenals.

Thus the situation in Nicaragua becomes further complicated. Nicaragua has witnessed a real possibility of military intervention on its territory in this new aggressive stance of U.S. imperialism. Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, read a message to the nation in which he denounced this move by the White House, describing it as a threatening deployment of forces only 5 months after the invasion of Grenada. The message stressed that Washington's stance reduces the chances for peace and encourages the warlike tendencies of those who oppose a political solution to the Central American crisis.

This message was also sent to heads of state, governments, solidarity organizations around the world, and various international organizations, such as the United Nations, the Contadora Group, and the Nonaligned Countries Movement [NOAL].

The NOAL Coordinating Board held an emergency meeting at the United Nations and demanded an immediate end to foreign military exercises and the elimination of foreign bases in Central America, as well as a halt to aggression against Nicaragua. In a communique released at the end of the meeting, the coordinating board recalled that in the final declaration of the New Delhi summit, threats and aggression against Nicaragua were denounced, as was the violation of Nicaragua's airspace and territorial waters, and the use of other countries' territories as bases for terrorist actions and sabotage.

NICARAGUAN LEADER TO VISIT MEXICO FOR TALKS

FL201435 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Reports received from Managua have asserted that Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of Nicaragua's Government Junta, will travel today to Mexico to hold talks with President Miguel de la Madrid about the new threat of intervention in Sandino's fatherland by U.S. troops. Official sources indicated that Ortega will remain 24 hours in the Mexican capital, where he will seek aid to face up to the U.S. aggression.

Media reports note that the Sandinist leader's visit to Mexico will coincide with that of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, and official circles do not reject the possibility that they might meet.

NICARAGUAN PLANNING MINISTER DEPARTS FOR MOSCOW

FL210036 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Managua -- It has been reported here that a Nicaraguan delegation headed by Planning Minister Henry Ruiz has left for Moscow on an official mission. Before boarding the plane, Ruiz said that the trip has two main objectives: First it is part of a normal exchange between the Nicaraguan Planning Ministry and the Soviet Gosplan [State Planning Committee] and second it is aimed at holding talks on economic matters within a program established for it, as well as signing certain agreements pending between the two countries.

Asked if the trip was to get responses to solidarity calls issued by the Nicaraguan Government, Ruiz said that the visit is also for that.

NICARAGUA PASSES NEW LAW ON PARTY EQUALITY

FL201617 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] PRENSA LATINA reports that Nicaragua's Council of State has debated and passed an electoral law establishing complete equality for all political parties. The law was passed as a lesson in revolutionary democracy.

A right-wing group's accusations against the bill and subsequent withdrawal from the debates have neither discredited the council nor lessened the importance of this law.

The original bill was greatly modified owing to the participation of more than 700 delegates in the Council of State debates. The Council of State is made up of representatives from political organizations, labor unions, the Armed Forces, and various social and ideologically oriented associations.

One important modification of the bill was the change in the nomination process of candidates to the Supreme Electoral Council [Consejo Supremo Electoral], which is under the Supreme Court's jurisdiction. Originally, the document stated that the decree would designate one candidate, the Council of State another, and the Government Junta a third.

NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT DELIVERS LAND TITLES

FL210005 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Managua -- The Nicaraguan Government has officially granted more than 3,000 hectares to peasants in northern Chinandega Department as part of a continuous implementation of the agrarian reform. A total of 14 land titles benefitted 177 families of Cinco Pinos, Somotillo, Villanueva, Zinica, and (Pozo Ortega), scenes of constant attacks by counterrevolutionaries and Honduran troops in the past few weeks.

More than 1 million [as heard] counterrevolutionaries entered Nicaragua through that region recently, according to the main speakers at the ceremony to deliver the land titles. For this reason, they noted, the peasants must become involved in self-defense tasks.

NICARAGUAN ARMY KILLS 27 COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES

FL201545 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] The People's Sandinist Army has killed 27 counterrevolutionaries in fighting that took place in the northern Department of Esteli in the past few hours. According to Interior Ministry reports, the battles took place on the San Ramon Hill in the city of (Antigua) and in Pueblo Nuevo.

It is estimated that some 1,500 counterrevolutionaries continue to operate in four northern departments of Nicaragua, even though they have been repelled and disbanded by the Sandinist forces.

Sandinist authorities have declared that the counterrevolution has been weakened and does not represent a problem for the government's stability. The real threat for Nicaragua is the possibility of a U.S. aggression.

DYNAMITE ATTACK, NATIONAL PROTEST NOTED IN CHILE

PA170126 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The headquarters of the ultrarightist Tradition, Family, and Property [Tradicion, Familia y Propiedad] group in Santiago, Chile, has been the target of a dynamite attack that resulted in considerable damage to the building.

This fiercely anticommunist organization played an important role in the destabilization campaign waged against the Salvador Allende administration. Over the past 10 years, it has supported General Augusto Pinochet's fascist military regime.

Other reports state that a national 24-hour hunger strike is taking place today to demand the release of Manuel Almeyda, the president of the People's Democratic Movement [MDP], a leftist opposition coalition.

On Wednesday the MDP and another opposition coalition, the Democratic Alliance, reiterated their support for the national protest scheduled by the National Workers Command for 27 March. The document calling for the protest, which was issued yesterday, notes the insecurity and chaos being experienced in Chile, with thousands of unemployed and exiles, unpunished murders, and individuals being tortured in secret jails. The document also accuses the Chilean dictatorship of failing to provide jobs, fair wages, dignified housing, and access to education and health services for the people. The instructions for the protest urged Chileans not to send their children to school on 27 March, not to go out shopping, and not to carry out any transactions in government offices. The document calls for meetings at universities and factories and for the banging of pots and pans between 2000 and 2100.

FRONT CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR BLASTS IN CHILE

PA181941 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] The (Manuel Rodriguez) Patriotic Front has claimed responsibility for the explosions that occurred early today in Santiago, Valparaiso, Vina del Mar, and Talcahuano. The Chilean capital was left in almost total darkness as the result of five explosions in the city's eastern zone. The biggest explosion occurred in an energy substation, which left the entire La Reina community without power.

Meanwhile, five men attacked a gun store in downtown Santiago, taking rifles, shotguns, and ammunition.

According to other reports, the Chilean Interior Ministry has demanded an 8-year sentence for People's Democratic Movement President Manuel Almeyda, who was arrested about 1 month ago. Several political sectors have demanded Almeyda's release, while a large number of people rallied in front of Santiago's prison last Friday, also demanding the leader's release.

COLOMBIAN M-19 COLUMN PURSUED AFTER ATTACK

PA181445 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Some 2,000 Colombian Army soldiers were today pursuing the M-19 (19 April Movement) guerrilla column that on Wednesday attacked Florencia, Caqueta Department. The government, defense, and communications ministers, Alfonso Gomez, General Gustavo Matamoros, and Nohemi Sanin Posada, respectively, went to Florencia this morning to study the situation and draft a report for President Belisario Betancur.

In a special cabinet session held in Bogota last night it was decided to declare a state of siege in Caqueta, Uila, Cauca, and Meta Departments.

OIL STRIKE IN ECUADOR PARTLY RESOLVED

PA191711 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] According to reports from Quito, the general strike affecting two Ecuadoran provinces, Napo and Esmeraldas, has been partly resolved. A state of emergency was decreed last night when an oil workers' strike was extended in the two provinces.

An Ecuadoran Government and Justice Ministry communique has now declared that Napo Province oil workers have agreed to lift the general strike that they declared 17 days ago. It was reported that the strikers demanded personal guarantees for those who organized the strike, but no additional details of their agreements with the authorities was released.

Last night a government decree declared the striking provinces a security area. In addition, all constitutional rights were suspended and a curfew was established in these two provinces.

IMMINENT CABINET CHANGES RUMORED IN PERU

PA181415 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Insistent reports are circulating in Lima, Peru, about imminent cabinet changes that will affect 9 of the 14 ministers, including the prime minister. Sources say that the economy and finance and commerce ministers, Carlos Rodriguez Pastor [as heard] and Foreign Minister Fernando Schwalb will certainly be replaced.

In Ayacucho there have been 16 bombings of police stations in the last few hours. All have been attributed to the armed group Shining Path. The attacks occurred shortly before the curfew that is in effect from 2200 to 0500 in Ayacucho, south-central Peru.

Mario Cavalcanti, president of the Human Rights Defense Committee in Ayacucho, has said that local policemen have been physically and psychologically torturing prisoners.

Economy Minister Resigns

PA202110 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Carlos Rodriguez Pastor, Peruvian economy and finance minister, has resigned from his post, and Jose Benavides, the current energy and mines minister, has been appointed to the post, according to official reports.

Rodriguez Pastor, who has been widely criticized lately for the serious economic crisis in Peru, resigned from his post after meeting with President Fernando Belaunde Terry.

The resignation of the economy and finance minister has been viewed as a last attempt by the government to prevent the nationwide strike against the economic policy that has been scheduled for Thursday. According to reports, Rodriguez Pastor's resignation means that other cabinet ministers, including Peruvian Prime Minister Fernando Schwalb, will also be replaced.

Meanwhile, the lifting of the curfew in the city of Ayacucho on orders from General (Adrian Lamunt), political-military head of that department, gave rise to surprise and anticipation in political and journalistic circles, even though the state of emergency will be maintained in that province and in the Departments of Huancavelica, Apurimac, and Ayacucho. A general blackout of unknown origin left the city of Ayacucho in the dark the first night after the curfew was lifted.

The 3,500 workers of Peru's 32 airports have been on strike for a week to demand salary raises and other benefits. It has been reported that five strikers, including two women, have been on a hunger strike for the last 4 days.

PERUVIAN DEPUTIES INJURED DURING DEMONSTRATION

PA192146 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Peruvian Deputies (Javier Diaz Canseco) and Hugo Blanco were injured during a demonstration in a poor district on the outskirts of Lima that was repressed by the police, when together with other opposition congressmen they were leading a march to the Government Palace. (Washington Ipeta), the mayor of (Villa del Triunfo), and an undisclosed number of demonstrators were arrested when the march reached the square in front of the Government Palace.

The demonstrators were going to ask President Fernando Belaunde Terry to immediately resolve the problems the poor districts are facing, such as those of water, electricity, and other basic needs.

PERUVIAN POLICE ACCUSED OF TORTURING PRISONERS

PA[illegible]2310 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Ayacucho's Committee for the Defense of Human Rights, through Mario Cavalcanti, its president, has charged that when police make arrests they torture their prisoners so severely that they are left half dead. Cavalcanti also reported that the police routinely carry out mind-breaking psychological torture to obtain information that the prisoners simply do not possess. He added that General Adrian Huaman, military chief of the political-military command for the Departments of Ayacucho, Huancavelica, and Apurimac, had promised that peasant charges that the police abuse their authority would be investigated, particularly as concerns the Navy police, who are constantly torturing humble peasants. Cavalcanti cited as an example the people who are being held as prisoners in a sports stadium in Huanca Province.

Other protests indicate that the Sinchis special units set fire to the homes of humble peasants during a combing operation that they were conducting in several parts of Huancavelica Department.

URUGUAY FACTION ON ELECTIONS, CIVIL LIBERTIES

PA191925 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] The movement For the Fatherland of Uruguay's National Party has urged all sectors of society to intensify popular efforts toward the reestablishment of constitutional order and the holding of elections. During a meeting of its leaders, the For the Fatherland movement reiterated that its main political action goal is the full recovery of civil liberties. The group is headed by Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, a leader in exile whom the National Party has chosen as its presidential candidate for the elections which the military regime has promised to hold.

URUGUAYAN COMMUNISTS CITED ON SEREGNI'S RELEASE

PA202056 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Regarding the release of General Liber Seregni from prison, which was announced on Monday, the representation of the Communist Party of Uruguay here in Havana has issued a declaration expressing immense joy over this great victory of the Uruguayan people and of international solidarity. The message notes that, degraded by the fascist military, subjected to humiliations, and infamously imprisoned for 10 years, Seregni could never be subjugated, and has emerged as a symbol and standard-bearer of a people who are struggling for their freedom.

The communique calls for increased solidarity with Uruguayan patriots Jaime Perez and Raul Sendic, who are still prisoners in fascist jails and who represent a banner in the struggle for the Uruguayan people's full and true freedom.

Finally the document asks that unity around the Broad Front be strengthened more each day so as to win amnesty and overthrow the tyranny headed by General Gregorio Alvarez.

CHILE-NICARAGUA SOLIDARITY CEREMONY IN VENEZUELA

PA181457 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] A ceremony has been held in Caracas, Venezuela, to express solidarity with Chile and Nicaragua and to repudiate the fascist regime headed by General Augusto Pinochet. The principal speakers at the ceremony were (Winmar Huaresma), first secretary of the Nicaraguan Embassy in Venezuela, and Mireya Baltra, former Chilean labor minister. They were preceded by Sergio Leon, secretary of the Chilean Solidarity Committee, who said that his country and Nicaragua are waging decisive battles against a common enemy -- U.S. imperialism -- and for definite freedom and sovereignty.

ARGENTINA'S CAMPERO REMARKS IN MEXICO NOTED

FL210058 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Mexico City -- Argentine Secretary of Commerce Ricardo Campero has called for the elimination of the developed countries' protectionism which is affecting Latin American nations. In remarks made at the Mexico City Airport, where he made a stopover following a visit to Cuba, Campero stressed that one of the main causes for the [word indistinct] and the drop in trade in Latin America is the deficit of industrialized countries.

He warned that the developed nations cannot recover economically by turning their back on developing countries because they must realize that Latin America needs to develop and to urgently fight inflation and growing (?unemployment).

PANAMA SAYS U.S. BUILDING 'CIVIC ACTION' WORKS

PA162100 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Panama's Foreign Ministry has denied press reports that the United States will build a military base in the area known as Mariato, in Panama's Veraguas Province. In a document issued to deny the report, the Panamanian Foreign Ministry maintains that those reports are false and that what is really being built in the area is a civic action project that includes highways and that will promote the socioeconomic development of the area's residents. The Foreign Ministry bulletin says that the projects are being built with the concurrence of the Panamanian Defense Forces.

DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

FL161844 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Some 100 people have been arrested and many others injured as the result of clashes between Dominican police and students who were protesting the high cost of living in that country. On the third consecutive day of disturbances, police forces attacked demonstrators with a lot of tear gas bombs and bullets. Meanwhile, students burned tires, threw stones at government offices, and chanted slogans against the government of Salvador Jorge Blanco.

BARBADOS' TULL FAVORS RELATIONS WITH HAVANA

PA192120 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Barbadian Foreign Minister Louis Tull has said that it is important for his country to maintain relations with Cuba, despite the differences that emerged as a result of the U.S. military invasion of Grenada last year.

Upon evaluating the foreign policy of Prime Minister John Adams, Tull said that he does not agree with those who want to break diplomatic relations with Cuba. I do not agree with that point of view, the foreign minister said, and he stressed that it would be disadvantageous for Barbados to ignore what Cuba represents in Latin America.

AGEE, U.S. JOURNALIST CITED ON GRENADA EVENTS

PA181901 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] The people of Grenada have spent the fifth anniversary of the victory of the revolution under foreign occupation and looking into the barrels of U.S. machine guns, according to the Argentine newspaper LA VOZ. The paper said that their greeting for Grenada honors the memory of the murdered leader of the Grenadian revolution, Maurice Bishop, and every patriot who died at the hands of the aggressors during the U.S. invasion.

At the same time, Philip Agee, former CIA agent, has said that Yankee aggression against Grenada by U.S. troops is part of the general imperialist strategy in Central America and the Caribbean Basin. He said that there are hundreds of U.S. agents and advisers in Grenada trying to wipe out every vestige of the revolution, its reforms, and its leaders.

U.S. journalist (?William Hertzel) said during a lecture at the University of Colorado that the invasion forces who landed in Grenada included mercenaries and scoundrels who cooperate with the magazine SOLDIER OF FORTUNE. These forces were charged with occupying the headquarters of the New Jewel Movement and seizing its records and other materials.

(?Hertzel), who managed to join the inner circle of the staff of OMEGA GROUP, which is published by SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, said that he learned of all this from the magazine's director, who had tried to disguise them [the mercenaries] as reporters, and therefore they were the only Yankee journalists who landed on the island from the beginning of the invasion [sentence as heard].

GUYANA OBJECTS TO IMF'S CONDITIONS FOR LOANS

PA170123 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Guyanese President Linden Forbes Burnham has said in Georgetown that his government will never alter the progressive course it has undertaken in its local and foreign policy in exchange for the crumbs that fall from the tables of those who believe themselves the new owners of this Caribbean country. Burnham was referring to the IMF, which is imposing conditions for its loans to Guyana that the Georgetown government has termed unacceptable.

The Guyanese President revealed that some capitalist governments in the area are pressuring the country, demanding that it sign an agreement with the IMF as a condition for loans. Burnham added that other capitalist governments have advised that Guyana alter its policy, that is, change its ideology, philosophy, and socialist development tactics.

As a result of the current economic crisis in the capitalist world, Guyana faces serious economic problems due to the fact that the exports of its basic products have dropped sharply in the past 3 years.

BARBADOS

ADAMS ANNOUNCES DEFENSE EXPENDITURE PLANS

FL210140 Bridgetown CANA in English 2313 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 20 (CANA) -- Barbados plans to spend 16 million dollars (one Bdos dollar; 50 cents U.S.) on defence during the forthcoming financial year, four million dollars more than during 1983, Prime Minister Tom Adams said last night.

He was speaking at the start of a week-long parliamentary debate on the government's estimates of expenditure and revenue for the 1984-85 fiscal year which begins on April 1.

Adams, who holds the defence portfolio, said the Coast Guard section of the Barbados Defence Force (BDF) has suffered severely because of insufficient personnel. He announced plans to increase staff. "We have to contemplate some general increase in numbers for the sake of efficiency of the force," Adams told the House of Assembly (lower house), adding: "We are taking on as many as are necessary for an efficient force."

The size of the Barbados Army has never been disclosed.

Adams said the sum budgeted for defense covered the cost of maintaining a still undisclosed number of Barbadian soldiers and policemen in Grenada where they participated in last October's U.S.-led military intervention.

He said the local troops, which are helping maintain order as members of a Caribbean peacekeeping force, were likely to remain on the island for the whole of the coming financial year.

Capital Expenditure Cut

FL201748 Bridgetown CANA in English 2257 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 19 (CANA) -- The Barbados Government intends to go easy on capital expenditure during the forthcoming financial year and will concentrate only on projects of a productive nature, Prime Minister Tom Adams said today.

He was leading off a week-long parliamentary debate on the government's estimates of expenditure and revenue for the 1984-85 financial year which begins on April 1. "The government has decided to take the opportunity of limiting economic expansion in 1984-85,' the prime minister said.

Adams, who is finance minister, said there was "a marked degree" of recovery in the Barbados economy in 1983. He cautioned, however, that the island's economic problems were not over.

The government is planning to spend 746.8 million dollars over the next 12 months, and is projecting a near 31 million dollar current account surplus.

Adams said public sector wage increases, currently being negotiated, were likely to absorb the projected surplus.

GRENADA

GOVERNOR SIGNS ORDINANCE ON GENERAL ELECTIONS

FL201759 Bridgetown CANA in English 2250 GMT 19 Mar 84

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, March 19 (CANA) -- Grenada Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon today signed the ordinance to guide the conduct of general elections later this year, government sources said.

The sources said that Sir Paul will tomorrow night tell Grenadians in a nationwide address that enumeration of voters will start on April 2 and run until May 12 -- with a cut off date of August 31, 1984.

Grenadians have not voted since 1976. Elected government was torpedoed by two coups in March 1979 and October 1983, the last of which triggered a U.S.-led invasion.

The interim administration installed after the military intervention has promised elections by the end of the year.

The polling ordinance makes provision for the appointment of enumerators, registration officers, and two assistant supervisors of elections, as well as for the registration of electors.

The newly opened electoral office headed by Supervisor of Elections Roy Chasteau was today, with the assistance of two technicians from Jamaica, carrying out a training programme for about 133 persons expected to be hired as photographers.

Jamaica has loaned to Grenada some 133 cameras to be used in preparing voter identification cards.

Persons reaching age 18 before September 1 are entitled to vote in the elections.

In the last general elections, the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) of former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy won nine of the 15 seats.

JAMAICA

SEABED AUTHORITY, LOS TRIBUNAL OPEN SESSION

FL200044 Bridgetown CANA in English 2014 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 19 (CANA) -- The Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and the Law of the Sea Tribunal opens its second session in Kingston tonight hoping to begin concrete work on shaping the institutions that will administer the resources of the world's oceans.

When the first session closed here last September after two periods of tedious negotiations, agreement had been reached on how the commission would structure and allocate its work, and delegates here hope that there can now be significant moves forward.

The Preparatory Commission is to make arrangements for the functioning of the ISA and tribunal once the Law of the Sea comes into force one year after it has been ratified by 60 countries.

This month-long session will focus on the elaboration of rules, regulations, and procedures for the registration of pioneer investors in activities relating to deep seabed mining for the polymetallic nodules on the ocean floor. Additionally, four specialised committees established in September should begin examining documents pertaining to their work.

The committees will deal with the problem of developing land-based producers of minerals once seabed mining begins, the structure of the enterprise, the supernational company that will undertake commercial exploration and exploitation of the deep seabed, the preparation of a code for seabed mining, and with the establishment of the tribunal.

The Principal organ of the Preparatory Commission will be the plenary, which will deal with the administrative procedures and financing of the ISA when established, as well as rules to govern the pioneer investors. The pioneer investors regime of the Law of The Sea, included to meet the concerns of the western industrialised nations, provides a virtual guarantee to a number of states and private enterprise that they will receive mining contracts from the ISA.

Under the system, one group of four states -- France, Japan, India, and the Soviet Union -- or their enterprises, and a second group of four whose components come from one or more of a list of eight states -- the U.S., Britain, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands Canada, Belgium, Japan -- are covered by the regime. But for a consortium to be registered as a pioneer investor it must have a certifying state that has signed the convention, and from the latter group only Canada, Japan, and the Netherlands have signed. France, India, and the Soviet Union have signed for the former.

Industrialised countries, led by Washington, have so far opted to stay out of the convention, claiming that it discriminated against private enterprise. They are also against clauses requiring the transfer of technology to the enterprise. Delegates hope to draft rules within the framework of the convention that might convince the western countries to enter.

ST LUCIA

EEC REPRESENTATIVE ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

FL161945 Bridgetown CANA in English 1842 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 16 (CANA) -- The European Community's representative in Barbados and the eastern Caribbean, Johannes Ter Haar, is currently on a three-day official visit to St Lucia to assess the community's programme of cooperation there, his office here said today. Ter Haar yesterday met St Lucia Prime Minister John Compton to discuss an EEC-financed agricultural programme in St Lucia and a land development project. Ter Haar also met director general of the Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS), Dr Vaughan Lewis, to discuss the current EEC-financed regional programme for the OECS and possible future cooperation. The ECC official was meeting today with the management of St Lucia Model Farms Ltd and a team of consultants. The office said the consultants, under an EEC-financed feasibility study, would make recommendations on the required drainage works to ensure that the Dennery and Cul-de-Sac Valleys, which comprise St Lucia's potentially most productive land, be returned to full productive use as soon as possible.

UNION WORKERS VOTE TO END SUGAR STRIKE

FL201430 Georgetown Guyana Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] The sugar industry strike has ended and a full resumption has been voted by both the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial, and Industrial Employees [NAACIE] and the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union [GAWU].

NAACIE called a strike by its 1,200 members on March 5th to protest the [words indistinct] for the implementation of a court order relating to a case involving a union member and [words indistinct] of the population.

[Words indistinct] its members on Friday last in solidarity with the NAACIE [words indistinct] but on Sunday, NAACIE announced that it was calling off the strike and yesterday, GAWU said its action was in solidarity with NAACIE so it is automatic that its move would also be to end the strike.

Sugar is the number two foreign exchange earner in Guyana. [passage indistinct]

Workers Return To Work

FL201658 Bridgetown CANA in English 1450 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 20 (CANA) -- Thousands of sugar workers returned to work this morning after their unions, the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Employees (NAACIE), and the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU) called off industrial action.

A spokesman for the Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco) told CANA that the weekend and the holiday yesterday had an adverse impact on a full resumption, but that "by tomorrow, the industry's operations should be back to normal."

NAACIE called a strike in the industry on March 5 to back demands for the implementation by Guysuco of a court decision under which a member was entitled to receive wage increases and the similar benefits passed on to other categories of the 1,200 NAACIE "sugar" membership.

GAWU called out 18,000 workers in solidarity support last Friday, but both strikes were called off after the National Assembly (parliament) on Friday passed the Labour Amendment Bill, which the union claimed reversed the high court decision on October 3 last year.

While both GAWU and NAACIE claimed overwhelming support for their strike calls, Guysuco said the action had no significant impact on production.

Meanwhile, the Trades Union Congress (TUC), the umbrella organisation for 21 trade unions here, will hold an executive council meeting tomorrow afternoon to discuss the implications of the Labour Amendment Bill which gave government sweeping powers in industrial relations matters.